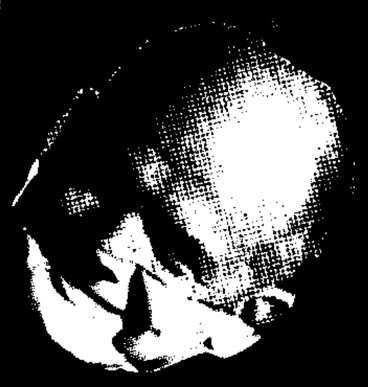
# PRIVATE EYE

No. 1092
31 October –
13 Nov. 2003
£1.30


# BUTLER HONOURED

DVD Bonus Disc featuring 'The Full Boris'



Over 160 minutes of the best moments featuring unseen footage

HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU

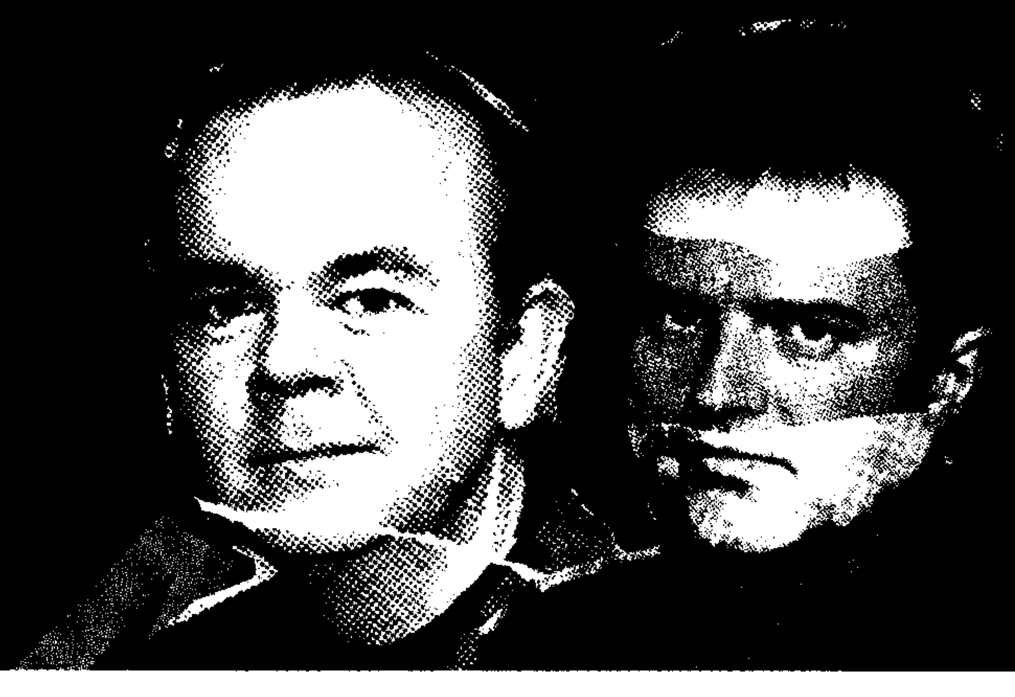
Guest Presenters

Includes Boris Johnson show and specially extended versions of the shows presented by Martin Clunes, William Hague and Bruce Forsyth

The Best of the Guests

Compilation of highlights from other shows in the series

OUT NOW ON VIDEO & DVD



VCI

HAT TRICK

# THE Gnome SAYS

**SIX YEARS after the death of Princess Diana in a Paris car accident, evil toady butler Paul Burrell has released letters in which the Princess claimed that people were planning to kill her in a fake car crash.**

We believe that Paul Burrell should now face charges for withholding these letters for so long.

The letters should, of course, have been handed over some years ago to the Editor here at the Gnome so that we could have upped our circulation by publishing them as we hailed Burrell as a true British hero.

By choosing not to do this, Paul Burrell has perverted the course of tabloid justice, and revealed himself to be beneath contempt.

*Long may he rot in a prison cell!*

# TRAITOR HELD

**EDITORIAL**
6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN. Tel: 020 7437 4017.
Fax: 020 7437 0705. **Email:** strobes@private-eye.co.uk
http://www.private-eye.co.uk

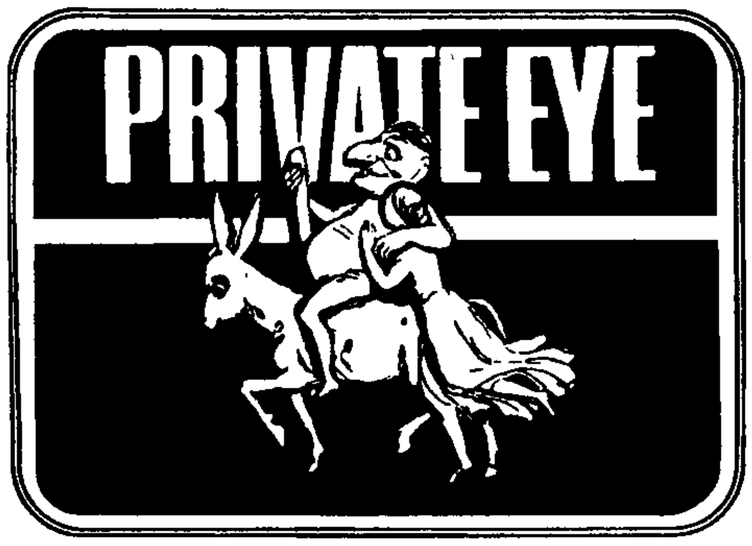
**PRIVATE EYE SUBSCRIPTIONS/SALES**
PO Box 326, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8FA.
**Subscription enquiries: 0870 750 1714**
Fax: 01795 414 555. Overseas: 01795 414 871
**Special Reports:** 0870 750 1711 **Books:** 0870 750 1712
**Email:** private-eye@galleon.co.uk

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**
£21 per annum. Europe and Eire £29. Airmail (rest of world) £35. Cheques/POs to Private Eye. Mastercard/Visa.

**ADVERTISING**
Display: 020 7878 2303 Classified: 020 7240 9129

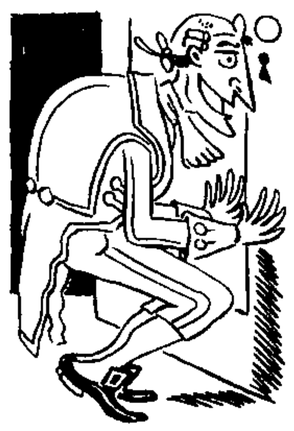
**Published** by Pressdram Ltd, 6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN. **Printed** by BGP Ltd, Bicester OX6 7QZ . **Distributed** by P.E. Distributions, 6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN. 020 7437 4017.

ABC




## Roll out the Burrell!


- I can't believe it's a butler 4
- The Socrates of Fleet Street 5
- An important letter about Portakabins 13
- Drek and Clive James 25
- Michael Jackson's memory lapse 26
- Slicker: the City's big lies 28-9

## COURT CIRCULAR

**THE QUEEN is not usually given to shows of emotion but as she studied Paul Burrell's latest revelations in the *Daily Mirror* over breakfast she slammed her teacup down so hard that she shattered her saucer. Normally unflappable flunkeys began running around the gilded corridors predicting the demise of the monarchy. They've done it many times before – but this time they could be right.**

What to do? Prince William's statement pleading with Burrell to stop his revelations was regarded as ineffective by royal insiders. Sir Robin Janvrin, Brenda's private secretary, noted in a private memorandum that sympathy would evaporate in seconds when Burrell unveils his next batch of secrets to a fickle public. Once Burrell is done the fear is that a number of Charles's former servants will be willing to tear up their gagging agreements. Charles has learnt too late that keeping servants sweet who know too much – such as Michael "the fence" Fawcett – is a priority.

Buckingham Palace is coming to the view that its only remaining option is to go public by owning up to hidden scandals before Burrell reveals them. Although this would derail the Burrell gravy train it is a very high-risk strategy – and is opposed by Clarence House. Brenda is to discuss it with Tony Blair (who is himself nervously awaiting the memoirs of Carole Caplin's ex-lover) before convening a meeting of the most senior royals and their private secretaries to thrash things out. It's make or break time now.

*'Flunkey'*

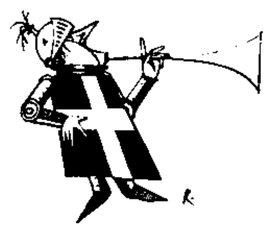
---

**LORD GNOME is delighted to reveal the happy ending to the story of elderly cleaners Franco and Fatima Bellacosa (*Eye* 1090).**

Mr Bellacosa was attacked and robbed of £12,000 life savings by a couple of muggers in a car as he walked home from his local Barclays bank. He had originally asked for the money in a cheque but the bank gave it to him in cash, without telling him that he could transfer it from his savings account by simply writing a cheque.

The item infuriated many *Eye* readers, some of whom suggested legal action. Others wrote in protest to Peter Middleton, Barclays half-a-million-a-year chairman, who was too busy to reply personally and passed the buck to Mike Brophy, head of customer relations. He wrote back briefly to assert that "the Bank cannot be held responsible for acts of crime that take place away from our premises". Not a single penny was offered by the bank to compensate for behaviour that was at least partly responsible for the Bellacosas' plight.

The glorious outcome of this story, however, is that the Bellacosas have now received all £12,000 from generous *Eye* readers shocked by the couple's predicament and disgusted by the tight-fisted, arrogant and bureaucratic reaction of Middleton, Brophy and the Barclays management. If, by a miracle, Barclays suddenly sees sense and refunds all or part of the money to the Bellacosas, we'll make sure that the donations go back to the readers.



## EYE TOLD YOU SO

***EYE* readers may have been shocked by the London tube derailments in Camden and Hammersmith, but they won't have been entirely surprised.**

Back in June 2001 (*Eye* 1029) we highlighted the grim collective safety record of the tube privatisation firms. Most attention today focuses on the now reviled Jarvis, which the *Eye* first warned about in 1998 (963 & 964).

In fact it is unfair to focus only on Jarvis and its miserable safety record. Balfour Beatty is also prominent among the PPP firms; and the *Eye* began warning that its disastrous safety record should keep it off the Underground back in 1999 (*Eyes* 969 & 973).

Amey, too, cannot escape criticism. It pays former Labour cabinet minister Baroness Jay as a consultant to spread good news about its work. But she cannot cover up a safety record which includes a £16,000 fine for trapping a member of the public with a beam let loose from its trackside work in 2001 and a £28,000 fine for electrocuting an electrician on the Croydon tramway in 1999.

**"Hindsight is a wonderful thing," said transport secretary Alistair Darling when asked why Labour hadn't abolished rail maintenance contracts. Clearly he hasn't paid enough attention to the *Eye*, which highlighted the shocking ignorance and inefficiency among Railtrack's contractors from 1995 (*Eye* 888) until this month (last *Eye*). The government must also have missed a report by the Commons transport committee in 1998 criticising the contract system (*Eye* 967).**

Although Network Rail has belatedly decided to do the maintenance itself, the same contractors will continue with renewals, as if renewals are less safety critical than maintenance. NR announced this decision the day *after* it emerged it was investigating Jarvis's renewal work on the west-coast mainline in Staffordshire.

The distinction between renewal and maintenance is artificial. Renewal is an element of maintenance, and some contractors have argued over whether replacing a faulty rail would constitute maintenance or renewal. NR may have little choice but to perpetuate that potential for confusion and buck-passing.

---

*"Only last October I was the leader of the Tory party"*

# SCRAPING THE BOTTOM OF THE BURRELL

**ALL last week, Piers "Morgan" Moron titillated *Daily Mirror* readers with letters from Princess Diana to Paul Burrell, and letters to Diana from Prince Philip and Earl Spencer. "Paul Burrell," one of Moron's editorials declared, "is doing a favour to the royals and to history – by revealing the truth."**

So it's OK to publish private royal correspondence, is it? Clearly this cannot be the same Moron who had a fit of righteous indignation five years ago when offered 64 letters from Diana to James Hewitt. Although the documents had in fact been stolen from the galloping major by one Anna Ferretti, Moron handed them over to the Spencer family rather than to the rightful owner for fear that Hewitt himself might try to sell them one day.

"Many people will be amazed that a tabloid newspaper should turn down the chance to publish these sensational letters," he wrote in the *Mirror* on 2 April 1998. "But we felt the right thing to do – the ONLY thing to do – was to return them to where they would be forever safe." Another thunderous editorial the next day declared that "nobody can be in any doubt about the scale of Hewitt's betrayal". It accused "this disgraceful man" of trying to "make money" out of the letters – something which Moron found "sickening".

Paul Burrell, too, has always been nauseated by people who profit from their Diana connections. Last November, after the collapse of his trial, he told the *Mirror*: "I might not be able to keep secrets about my life but, whatever I face, I will always be the keeper of Diana's secrets." He also attacked Earl Spencer for charging admission fees at the Diana museum at Althorp: "I for one would not parade her life and charge £10.50 a time. I have not made a penny out of Diana's memory." True enough, actually: in his new book *A Royal Duty* Burrell parades her life at £17.99 a time; and he has indeed not made "a penny" but £500,000 – to add to the £300;000 he earned from the *Daily Moron* a year ago.

As recently as May this year, when interviewed by Piers Moron for the BBC TV series *Tabloid Tales*, the ex-butler explained why he would never divulge the contents of Prince Philip's letters to Diana. "That's private," he told Piers, "between father-in-law and daughter-in-law." Or, as it now turns out, between father-in-law and several million *Mirror* readers.

**IF THE "War of the Waleses" was sordid and vicious, it's nothing compared to the battle of the Diana pundits that has raged since the princess's death.**

On 21 October the *Sun* called on two men amply qualified to criticise Burrell for cashing in on Diana's memory by writing a book – former royal bodyguard Ken Wharfe (*Diana: Closely Guarded Secret*, Michael O'Mara, 2002) and ex-private secretary Patrick Jephson (*Shadows of a Princess*, Harper Collins, 2000).

Wharfe is an old hand at slagging off Burrell's gullibility. The *Sun* hired him as a spoiler to the butler's *Mirror* deal last November, despite having accused him of leaving the Queen "hurt and betrayed" three months previously when his own book was serialised elsewhere. Jephson, who obligingly stumped up 400 words on "the many unscrupulous voices that were ready to exploit Diana's vulnerablity", was making his first appearance in the *Sun* since last December, when the paper branded him "Diana's Judas" for writing about the princess.

Realising that it needed back-up in the face of such big guns, the *Mirror* wheeled out "Di's Confidante" Simone Simmons (*Diana: The Secret Years*, Michael O'Mara, 1998) to back up Burrell's account of anonymous threats to the princess. Simmons happily obliged – despite having been branded one of the "trusted few who betrayed Diana" by the paper in August 2002 (the paper pronounced itself particularly disgusted by her "astonishing claims that Diana had a passionate fling with and wanted to marry heart surgeon Hasnat Khan", even though it exclusively reported the exact same thing in 1996).

Now, however, Simmons threw her weight behind the *Mirror* – even though the paper's front page claimed to "dispel the myth" that Prince Philip disliked Diana and blamed her for the break-up of her marriage, a myth that was detailed at length in the *Mirror* last November by, er, Simone Simmons!

## JUST FANCY THAT!

"A lot of nonsense and plain lies have been written about them [Prince Philip's letters to Princess Diana]. Much later, newspaper reports, aided by wild exaggeration from dramatic sources, claimed they were 'the nastiest letters Diana had ever received', and they were short, curt and written on A5 paper. Such gross inaccuracies cannot be allowed to linger."

— *Daily Mirror* "world exclusive", 21 October 2003.

"They were the nastiest letters Diana ever received... Philip wrote the notes to Diana on A5 headed writing paper."

— *Daily Mirror* "world exclusive", 11 November 2002.

**THE *Daily Mirror* was quick to put its "Diana Letter Sensation" – the note warning of an imminent car crash plot that concerned Paul Burrell so much he forgot about it for six years after her death – in context. "By October 1996 she confided in Burrell that she believed there was a concerted attempt to undermine her in the public's eyes," it reported.**

Sadly, this appears to be true. A quick look at the cuttings file revealed that in October 1996 one particularly heartless paper proposed "a Royal Complaints Commission" to condemn the princess for "notching up 'romances' including an Army officer, a car salesman and the England rugby captain", and prevent her "jetting off on her sixth foreign holiday in a year."

Later in the month the same paper rubbished her claim to be visiting hospital patients late at night, instead revealing her "deep and passionate love which will shake the foundations of the royal family" with heart surgeon Hasnat Khan, and ignored her charity engagements on an Australian tour in favour of investigating "a mystery – does she or doesn't she have cellulite?" The paper in question? The *Daily Mirror*.

Now, however, all has changed. Last Monday *Mirror* editor Piers Morgan devoted a full-page editorial to a sympathetic paean to the "vulnerable young woman", Diana. "Today's first extract from Burrell's book reveals Diana's serious concern over how security services were following her and bugging her. He discloses a specific warning from another member of the Royal Family to watch what she said on the phone or in her apartments."

Could that mysterious warning by any chance have come from Sarah Ferguson, who in October 1996 found transcripts of her conversations with "psychic" Madame Vasso – including revelations about Diana's sex life and her relationship with her in-laws – splashed all over the *Daily Mirror*?

# STREET OF SHAME

**WHEN asked how he would differ from his predecessor Charles Moore, new *Telegraph* editor Martin Newland told the *Evening Standard*: "If I see one more picture of three bikini-clad girls handing over a cheque, under the pretence that it is news, I'll be furious. There has to be a story to go with it."**

Newland may be keen to distance himself from Moore's obsession with curves and embonpoint, but old habits die hard at the *Hurleygraph*. On 21 October, Newland's second day at the helm, the op-ed spread featured a photo of the ever-fragrant Liz in one of her modest and conservative outfits.

Fortunately, there was an important story to justify its presence. This was London Spy's earth-stopping revelation that la Hurley was planning to hold a shooting party on her Gloucestershire estate.

**ANDREW NEILL is unapologetic about his new distribution policy for failing weekly *The Business*, which has seen its readership figures treble thanks to the new technique of "piggybacking" – hiding his own pink organ inside special plastic-sheathed copies of the *Mail on Sunday*, as well as secreting copies in the lounges of hotels and airports in the hope that travellers will be bored enough to pick them up and read them.**

"I don't regard them as bulks," Neill told the *Press Gazette*. "Bulks, to me, means papers being given away on Connex trains, or the *FT* handing them out randomly outside tube stations. The problem there is that you end up with the reputation that you can't even give it away."

His own approach is, of course, entirely different, as members of the British Polish Chamber of Commerce found out last week when an unsolicited letter announced that they would henceforth be receiving no fewer than three complimentary copies of *The Business* every week. "The publication will be delivered free of charge to your office for a minimum of 36 months," John Graham of Spain-based outfit Resort Marketing sternly informed them, but he hastened to assure them that they would not be alone in their suffering. "An agreement with COBCOE [Council of British Chambers of Commerce in Continental Europe] covers all European chambers regarding this special membership benefit, which has been operative with the Swiss and Spanish British chamber's [sic] of commerce for many months, and has proven to be a great success with its members."

It remains to see if potential advertisers, wooed with the promise of 600,000 discerning, cash-splashing readers by next spring, will be so easily convinced.

## O·B·N

There was a blessed time when the ideal Englishman comprised the lyrical elegance of Noel Coward, the bulldog elegance of Winston Churchill, the impeccable style of Rex Harrison, the heroic decency of Biggles, the polished charm of David Niven, the courteous persistence of Sherlock Holmes and the gallant bravura of Nigel Dempster

**JEFF POWELL**
***Daily Mail***

*Submitted by Tom Browne*

***£10 paid for entries put forward for the Order of the Brown Nose.***

**FOR those in the Home Counties who salivate over decorating manuals and estate agents' particulars, there are few more potent aphrodisiacs than the *Evening Standard*'s give-away Homes & Property section with its titillating peeks inside noteworthy apartments.**

Earlier this month they were treated to a centre-page spread of photos showing the London pad of interior designer and decorator Michael Daly. These accompanied a feature by property hackette Amanda Harling describing Daly's decorative talents in luscious detail. "His clients seem to live almost exclusively in Kensington and Chelsea," Amanda noted admiringly, and she generously provided his contact number should any upmarket readers wish to have their walls titivated and tricked-out by this talented chap.

Harling is clearly quite a fan: she also inserted a gratuitous plug for Daly's business (complete with phone number) in another *Evening Standard* feature two months ago. What she fails to mention in this exhilarating puffery, however, is the fact that Michael Daly is her partner of many years and father of her grown-up daughter — and that the apartment she describes so alluringly is, in fact, her own London home!

FACT: a double-page colour advertisement in the *ES* property section costs £22,000.

**THE Murdoch papers, ever quick to denigrate the national lottery's support of "loony" projects, particularly those that help asylum seekers, have so far kept very quiet on how lottery money is being channelled to one of the world's biggest entertainment companies.**

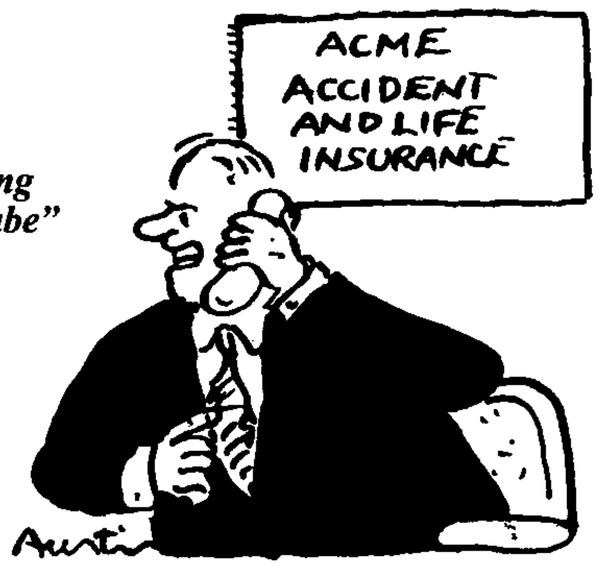
Confirmation that "RupertAid" was getting the go-ahead came in a press release last month announcing a joint venture between DNA Films (a UK production franchise with £29m lottery cash to give away) and Fox Searchlight, property of, er, Rupert Murdoch.

The following day's *Times* and *Sun* were unable to squeeze the story in. Nor could the next *Sunday Times* find space to mention the connection, despite a 900-word feature on the work of DNA Films. They have all continued to studiously ignore the deal.

In 1997 the then Arts Council Film Fund awarded £29m lottery money to each of three franchises: Pathe, the Film Consortium and DNA. They were supposed to make lots of exciting films with the cash. They didn't. In fact the Film Consortium was last month attacked by Stephen Fry in the *Sunday Telegraph* as having "done nothing to revive the industry". DNA made just six films in six years and failed to spend most of its grant. However, when the Film Council inherited the project it generously extended all three franchises.

DNA's left over money will now transfer to the new Fox venture; and with the precedent set, there's nothing to stop the Film Council allocating more lottery funds to DNA-Fox when the current money runs out. Yet, according to its own press release, "Fox Searchlight Pictures, a division of Twentieth Century Fox, is one of the film industry's most successful speciality distribution companies with an international track record for spotting film talent and skilfully financing and marketing smaller, edgy films to achieve international mainstream success."

Why it needs or deserves lottery cash is a mystery.




*"Start advertising on the tube"*

# HACKWATCH

## A. C. Grayling

**WHAT'S it all about, eh? We live in a blizzard of ideas and images, but *what do they actually mean*? Help is at hand. When the *Times* relaunched its Weekend section last month it invited the ubiquitous silly-haired philosopher A. C. Grayling to pen a weekly *feuilleton* elucidating the issues of the day.**

Grayling used to deliver similar sermons in the *Financial Times* and more recently in the *Guardian*, written in the style of a secular Rev J. C. Flannel. The *Grauniad* eventually ditched his Saturday column because (a) it discovered that many of his *pensées* were merely copied out verbatim from earlier *FT* articles, and (b) it was fed up with his platitudes anyway. But the *Times* clearly loves him. Editor Robert Thomson boasted that Grayling would "deal with human dilemmas in a unique way" and even ran an editorial introducing "our philosopher-at-large".

In a recent "My Week" piece for the *Independent on Sunday*, Grayling described such an exhausting schedule – lecturing on Kant, researching a biography of Descartes, writing dance criticism and book reviews, judging the Booker prize, speaking at literary festivals, dining at the Athenaeum – that you might wonder how he has the energy to enlighten *Times* readers as well. "Wednesday is copy day for my weekly *Times* column," he explained. "The ideas for this grow at the back of my mind from the weekend onwards, gather their haunches overnight on Tuesday, and are ready to dash from the traps on Wednesday morning." Here are some of the hares he has chased…

**6 September:** A watercoloured mugshot of the gorgeous pouting philosopher sits atop his inaugural *Times* column. "The first column in a new Saturday review section might fancifully be likened to the beginning of a journey… whose wayside inns are notions." The importance of beginnings, he adds, "is exemplified by the fact that all cultures have creation myths." But Grayling prefers science to myth, because "whereas the latter has not been notably fruitful in making possible the discovery of antibiotics, computers and central heating, science has".

Not such a new beginning after all, then. In the *Financial Times* on 10 April 1993 Grayling noted that science has bequeathed us "electric light, antibiotics, air transport, telecommunications, central heating and the computer". Or, as he wrote in the *Guardian* on 24 June 2000, "the careful and open-minded procedures of science have given us electric light, antibiotics, central heating, television and computers". Or, as he put it in the *Guardian* on 16 March 2002, "creation myths are based on nothing but the fantasies of the ignorant" whereas "the legacy of scientific rationality includes antibiotics, electric light, computers, aeroplanes, central heating".

**13 September:** The World Trade Organisation is meeting in Cancun, and Grayling races out of the traps to reveal his startling new insight: that, on the whole, it would be a good thing if poor people had more money. "Poverty threatens world stability in many ways," he observes. "While resources are so massively misdirected, and while injustices in their distribution are so openly perpetuated by their beneficiaries, the only certainty is future trouble."

**20 September:** The Booker judges have announced their shortlist. "As one of those judges," he writes, "the experience of surveying so much contemporary fiction in such a concentrated way has confirmed for me a long-held belief." This conviction – which is "not always fully appreciated" by lesser mortals – is that "reading is one of the essentials… of the good life." Shock, horror! Even more sensationally, he discloses that novel-reading isn't the same as going to the theatre: "A play cannot be stopped or reprised in the way that pages can be re-read… A novel is all present all at once, and can be gone over and back, re-entered, skimmed, sampled or devoured, just as required." Good to have that cleared up.

**27 September:** Others might say that David Blunkett is to the right of Attila the Hun. Grayling, being an intellectual, shuns such vulgar insults. For him, Blunkett's support for identity cards confirms the home secretary's "place on the ideological spectrum starboard of a notorious Mongol conqueror". Well put, sir! But Blunkett has done Grayling a favour by prompting a question: "What is identity?… In what sense, if any, is anyone the same person aged 50 that he was aged 20?" These are difficult problems, Grayling discloses, "complicated by the fact that no one is just one person". So now you know.

**4 October:** Tony Blair delivers his party conference speech. The philosopher-at-large takes the opportunity to reveal that such orations are "essays in the art of rhetoric" – and, though *Times* readers may not have realised it, are "wrought with skill to achieve a predetermined effect; written with acute awareness of possible interpretations; combed by advisers for pitfalls, and rehearsed beforehand". Our latter-day Socrates goes on to reveal that rhetoric is "deliberate" and "artificial", designed "to get the audience to agree with or support the speaker". Fancy!

**11 October:** Israel is building a huge fence separating Israeli from Palestinian territory. Makes you think, eh? If not, the Rev. J. C. Grayling has thoughts to spare. "Physical fences rise only when mental fences have already been built," he muses. "And it is, of course, the mental fences that are the real problem. Hatred and hostility… result in the erection of barriers between peoples." And the solution? "Obviously – so obviously – to prevent too many more such atrocities, it is hatreds that must be dismantled, not fences erected."

Eventually, no doubt, executives at the *Times* will decide that Grayling's turgid statements of the bleeding obvious have delighted them long enough. But they should beware: he doesn't go quietly. When sacked from the *Grauniad* he protested furiously, claiming he was inundated with letters from distraught admirers. Sure enough, the editor then received an email from a reader who said that Grayling's brilliant contributions were the only reason he bought the paper on Saturday. Alas! A moment's detective work revealed that the sender of this pseudonymous email was, er, A. C. Grayling himself!

**WHEN editors at the *Evening Standard* wanted an expert opinion on how to make it in the restaurant business for their *ES* supplement, they turned to Luke Johnson, the man behind eateries-du-jour The Ivy, Le Caprice and J Sheeky.**

"Snooty indifference is fatal," he wrote on 17 October. "High-quality restaurants employ enthusiastic professionals who enjoy their work… You can prepare the most exotic dishes on the planet, but customers won't come back if the waiter is rude."

Could he by any chance be related to the Luke Johnson who stormed out of one of his own restaurants when working as a waiter for the BBC documentary *Back to the Floor* three years ago, telling producers to "stick your programme"?

Number crunching

**80**

■ number of staff sacked from *Daily Mirror* this year to save on salary bill

**£800,000**

■ amount *Daily Mirror* has paid to Paul Burrell in last year

**THE THREE members of "New" Labour's Star Chamber – the national constitutional committee – were keen for the media to understand that their decision to find George Galloway MP guilty of "bringing the party into disrepute" was their decision, and theirs alone.**

The Glasgow Kelvin MP learned his fate at 5pm on Thursday. All the members of Galloway's local Labour party received the verdict, by post, in a tortuously long letter that arrived first thing Saturday morning. Such a remarkable feat would have required "New" Labour's Stakhanovite general secretary Dave "Spart" Triesman to have been up all night on Thursday in order to make first post Friday for the letters to arrive first post Saturday.

The alternative explanation – that the missive had been prepared some time in advance – is of course too ludicrous to contemplate.

**MINISTERS and their spinners are usually only too eager to offer their thoughts on drugs – and indeed on football. But amid the continuing furore about Rio Ferdinand's curious short-term memory loss, there has been a deafening silence from the government. Even drugs minister Hazel "I did inhale" Blears seems to have nothing to say.**

No doubt Ferdinand's agents, the SFX Sports Group, are suitably grateful. SFX is a subsidiary of the Texas-based Clear Channel Communications, a right-wing conglomerate which is growing rapidly over here, especially on the football front. This expansion programme, which has been aided and abetted by the government's decision to relax media ownership restrictions, is led by the thorny Roger Parry, Clear Channel UK's boss – and Blair election campaign donor.

Parry is also chairman of Johnston Press, the regional newspaper group which recently dispensed with Harry Blackwood, editor of the *Hartlepool Mail*, who had made the mistake of repeatedly disagreeing with his MP's worldview – the parliamentarian in question being Peter Mandelson.

With such an inside track to Rio Ferdinand's minders at Clear Channel, absent-mindedness may not be the only reason for "new" Labour's failure to comment.

*"I've tried giving up leadership challenges but don't have the willpower"*

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| O | E | H | I | F | G | K | F | B | E | C |
| B | D | P | C | Q | W | O | M | E | F | A |
| L | C | F | G | L | R | T | S | I | P | N |
| I | B | S | A | O | C | T | A | F | B | K |
| G | K | E | F | J | U | S | A | J | G | I |
| M | A | H | S | D | B | K | L | E | C | H |
| F | M | P | F | Q | U | H | D | Q | A | L |
| D | I | B | K | N | E | B | G | J | R | E |
| L | F | H | E | A | K | V | P | N | V | A |
| A | J | D | G | Q | S | E | F | J | K | O |
| G | B | P | C | K | R | H | T | R | W | B |

1. MASS
2. DESTRUCTION
3. WEAPONS
4. OF

## TONY'S WORD SEARCH

**ONE of Tony Blair's oldest political friends, Phil Wilson – his former powerhouse in Sedgefield and one-time key ally at Millbank – has found a new job.**

Wilson has left Brunswick, the City PR and lobbying firm, to start one of his own. One of his first clients is the Cross Industry Group for Gaming Deregulation, a bunch of leisure giants like Rank and Gala who hope to make a killing when Labour relaxes the gaming laws and allows giant casinos to flourish everywhere.

Another beneficiary of gaming deregulation will be the firm that is taking the Millennium Dome off the government's hands, Meridian Delta. It plans to build a whacking great casino on the Greenwich site. With Wilson and the dome set to benefit, all the clever money now says the new gaming laws will be rushed through parliament.

**DAFYDD IWAN, the folk-singer turned president of Plaid Cymru, found himself before the beak for his fourth speeding offence in three years last month.**

Iwan, who pleaded guilty, was remarkably lucky to escape with a £100 fine and three penalty points after magistrates concluded that a driving ban would unduly affect his political life. What may still be affected is his credibility as a leading backer of "Arrive Alive" – North Wales police's anti-speeding campaign!

**BRITISH Nuclear Fuels Ltd (BNFL) has hired a Liberal Democrat Lord Tim Clement-Jones to lobby for it in parliament.**

Clement-Jones is head of DLA Upstream, the lobbying arm of lawyers Dibb Lupton Alsop, and his latest entry in the Lords' register of interests shows BNFL as a new client. His firm offers to help companies meet ministers and keep abreast of new laws; but as BNFL is state-owned, it can presumably speak to ministers whenever it wants by picking up the phone. Normally, civil servants would also keep the firm informed of any new plans. So why it is throwing money at Lord Clement-Jones's firm is a mystery – unless BNFL is actively trying to change government policy itself without waiting for ministerial direction.

How Clement-Jones' lobbying stands with his Lib Dem colleagues is open to question. Shadow Lib Dem DTI secretary Vincent Cable says: "Nuclear power isn't competitive in the short and medium term. In the long term there is no solution in sight to the problems of waste disposal." He believes it should be phased out.

Lib Dem energy spokesman Andrew Stunell is a frequent critic of BNFL for its pollution and government bail-outs. Clement-Jones's deputy at DLA is Kevin Craig, a former adviser to the Labour government. Clement-Jones joins BNFL's roster of lobbyists, which as the *Eye* revealed, also includes former American vice-president Dan Quayle.

***EYE* readers may recall the generosity of Mr Omar Al-Hassan and his Gulf Centre of Strategic Studies, particularly with freebies for British MPs to the gulf kingdom of Bahrain.**

Mr Al-Hassan has been especially busy since recent constitutional "reforms" in Bahrain. Five MPs, three Labour and two Tory, went as his guests earlier this month for a standard visit and sumptuous stay at the Ritz-Carlton, Manama.

The visit was an unqualified public relations triumph for the regime. The *Bahrain Tribune* (owned by the government) was ecstatic. It quoted John Austin, Labour MP for Erith and Crayford, as saying that Bahrain had "upheld the principles" of the International Parliamentary Union.

The IPU, he said, "stands for good governance, democracy and greater participation of women in the political agenda". Other Labour MPs to enthuse over the democratic nature of the new regime were Asok Kumar (Middlesbrough South) and Ken Purchase (Wolverhampton North East), a frequent visitor even before the "reforms".

The MPs took the opportunity to welcome the recent war in Iraq that toppled a dictator there, a very different state of affairs, they insisted, to that in Bahrain. Among the subjects not discussed by the MPs at their press conference were:

The fact that the King of Bahrain appoints all the ministers, almost all of them members of his family.

The fact that the elected chamber has little or no power over the non-elected chamber appointed by the king.

Discrimination against the Shi'a majority, 65 percent of the island's population, who cannot serve in the police, customs, armed forces or ministry of the interior.

The exclusive ownership by the king of the island's lucrative foreshore.

The good governance, democracy and greater participation of women in three other IPU countries: North Korea, Saudi Arabia and Myanmar (Burma), where the only opposition leader (a woman) is locked up without charge.

*"Remind me, old boy, which one's Iain Duncan Smith, wouldn't want to stick it in the wrong fellow..."*

**UNTIL recently, members of the Conservative party who were ambitious and foolhardy enough to stand for parliament generally knew what to expect when they went before a local constituency association. Invariably the line of questioning would relate to their marital status (married with kids good; single bad) and their views on hanging, Europe and immigration.**

But those days are now gone. So desperate are the Tories to appear a groovy modern political organization that party boxwallahs have now taken to quizzing prospective MPs on the banal and the bizarre. One would-be candidate had the following teasers posed to him by a constituency selection committee last week. Can you explain the effects of the Bain report on the Labour party? (That's the one to do with the fire service.) What is the name of the new leader of the House of Lords? How much is a pint of milk and how much is a litre of petrol? Who's number one in the pop charts?

As for more urgent issues, such as what do you think of IDS?, one can only presume that they thought it kinder not to ask.

## TRADE UNION NEWS

**THE NEW general secretary of train drivers' union Aslef, Sean Brady, had barely got his foot through the door at the baronial HQ in Hampstead when the union's own staff voted to go on strike.**

Brady – known to colleagues as "Sweaty Betty" – delighted Downing Street when he emerged the surprise victor over the incumbent leader, left-winger Mick Rix, over the summer. But the union's staff were furious that within 48 hours of his arrival in Hampstead, long-standing staff agreements had been shredded and various "friends" of the new regime had been appointed to well remunerated jobs on the whim of "Sweaty" and his close confidant Michael Blackburn, Aslef's assistant general secretary.

Blackburn, who had plotted Rix's downfall behind the scenes, celebrated the arrival of "Sweaty" by appointing a close friend to the position of office manager – her salary miraculously leaping from £27,000 to £37,000 overnight, and without the vacancy being advertised. But the excitement that accompanied regime change at Aslef proved rather too much for Blackburn, who began banging on the caretaker's flat at midnight demanding in a tired and emotional fashion that he "get out". When the man refused, he was sacked on the spot.

This meant that the union's executive, blissfully unaware of the shenanigans, were locked out of the building the following morning since the "sacked" caretaker had the keys. Once he had been hastily reinstated it was business as usual – until the rest of the staff decided to vote for industrial action, demanding that action be taken against Michael Blackburn. The vote would have been unanimous for a strike, save for the timely intervention of Blackburn's close friend, who voted against.

"Sweaty Betty" then took control of the situation by announcing that no staff meeting would be allowed in the building, and heroically volunteering to man the union's phones himself.

## THE SPROUT

**THE fall-out from the Betsy Duncan Smith affair is creating panic in Brussels among some of the 86 British MEPs with the news that two UK newspapers are now investigating MEPs' employment of family members.**

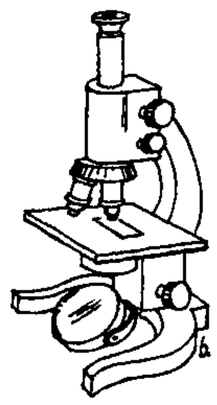
In September, the European parliament published on its website for the first time a list of accredited members' assistants. And when it comes to keeping it in the family, the British MEPs top the poll.

Officially, Labour chief whip Bill Miller (whose wife works for him) says he's perfectly happy to have the investigation done. Some Labour insiders aren't, however, and have told The Sprout that if the inquiries expose the MEPs' fiddles, the party will be "in deep shit".

Tory sources say there have been strenuous attempts to stop the nepotism. Nevertheless, some MEPs employ up to three members of their family. The advantages for the MEP are obvious; but the issue for taxpayers is not simply whether the family member is qualified to do the work but whether he or she provides taxpayers with value for money and puts in enough hours to justify wages of upwards of 30,000 euros a year. As one tabloid political editor told The Sprout: "These things are not easy to check up: most of them claim to be working in their constituency offices or at home."

The MEPs who declare their family members as employees are Sir Robert Atkins, John Bowis, Philip Bushill-Mathews, John Corrie, Den Dover, Ian Hughton, Sir Neil McCormick, Bill Miller and David Sumberg. However, like almost everything in Brussels, this list does not include those who do employ their family but fail to mention it on the "optional public register". Apparently, some have not even mentioned it to the spouses themselves.

## UNDER THE MICROSCOPE



**EACH year, we're told, the seas around Britain are becoming cleaner. The government trumpets its compliance with EU bathing water directives regarding the disposal of sewage off our bathing beaches, and the UK's coastline now bristles with blue flags. Even Blackpool, once the cesspit of the north west, has been given a clean bill of health.**

Alas, the transformation is not quite so marvellous as it seems. The monitoring of "water quality" – ie the number of bacteria and viruses from human excrement it contains – is often carried out to extremely dubious standards; and sewage treatment plants are routinely turned off once the tourists have left.

Several sewage plants – at Camber in East Sussex and Lyme Regis in Dorset, for example – turn off their ultraviolet "bacteria zappers" at the end of September. This leaves surfers, sea canoeists and hardy bathers to take their chances with sewage which has only been subjected to secondary treatment. This saves money (though the water companies claim they do it to "save energy").

More seriously, as one water monitoring expert told the *Eye*, the equipment used to check bacteria is often inadequate. In many areas sewage pollution is actually *increasing* as coastal populations rise and treatment plants, usually built on the cheap, break down.

Sewage monitoring remains a black art. It's easy to get a good result from an otherwise filthy beach when you know how. First, take your sample at four o'clock in the morning when everyone is asleep and not on the toilet. Then, judge tide and current right, and dip your test tube well out of any stream of incoming filth. Then it is easy to mark a pass on a result that is borderline. All this is done by the Environment Agency, whose job it is to make sure the water companies are doing their job properly.

While insiders say the agency may not be doing all it can to detect and highlight serious pollution, councils do not like trumpeting that their beaches are filthy. With a few honourable exceptions, they do not red-flag beaches when a fail result is found. Indeed, beaches that are clean most of the summer may become swirling cesspits after heavy rain, as storm water discharges sweep a brown tide across the sands and into the sea. Again warnings are rare.

*'Boffin'*

## DOWN ON THE FARM

**AN avalanche of paper continues to flood through farmers' letter boxes from Defra and associated agencies. One farmer who stuck all the official papers he's received so far this year on his kitchen scales found that the more than 60 documents, some nearly 100 pages long, weighed nearly a stone (or what the department for the elimination of farming and rural affairs would call 6.35 kilograms). These gems included:**

Consultation papers on the "use of the National Sheep Envelope"; the "implementation of the Cartagena Protocol: regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the transboundary movement of genetically modified organisms"; and "legislative proposals for Integration of the Habitats Directive provisions on conservation of European protected species into the land-use planning regime".

This column has already reported the unworkable new regulations for farmers burying fallen stock. Then there is the "proposal for the identification and registration of sheep and goats" – a surreal plan to put a barcode-like plastic tag on the ear of all Europe's 200 million sheep. But the paper avalanche goes on. It includes:

The "rural land register data capture exercise"; the "quinquennial review of the Milk Development Council"; the "integrated administration and control system" – 64 pages long on "recycled paper containing 100 percent post-consumer waste"; the "Defra race equality scheme"; the Defra/DTI consultation paper on "a set of decoupling indicators of sustainable development"; a consultation paper for the "national scrapie plan semen archive"; the "rural delivery review" – a questionnaire of "stakeholders and interested parties"; and the "proposed use of catering waste containing meat in composting and biogas treatment".

Despite Defra's concern for farmers – one document is headed "useful hints and tips for completing Defra surveys on the internet" – it's somehow not surprising that farming is the occupation with the highest suicide rate in Britain.

*'Muckspreader'*

## HIGH PRINCIPALS

**PITY whoever has to organise the staff collection for the forthcoming retirement of Richard Millham, principal of Motherwell College.**

The astonishing cost of industrial tribunals under Millham's regime was revealed in Eye 1087. Hundreds of thousands of pounds have been paid out of college funds to former staff for wrongful dismissal, either following tribunal rulings or in pre-tribunal settlements.

A further tribunal concluded that Millham had forced a contractor to sack a janitor for accidentally switching off the lights when the principal was still in his office. Most recently the college's union convenor Douglas Nicol was awarded £44,500 after he was demoted because of trade union activities. Tribunals have been strongly critical of the college's management.

As Millham prepares to leave his post in December, it's perhaps worth recalling some of his other achievements since the college became self-governing in 1994.

In 2001 the college management caused fury among staff and students when it decided to do away with the library. An essential resource for a learning institution, you might think; but students now have to join the library of Bell College in Hamilton and then try to claim back their £15 joining fee.

As well as victories at tribunal, the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) teaching union has won ACAS rulings over a restructuring plan which breached written agreements with staff. In 2000 the college staff went on strike to defend the rights of staff members who worked in the prison education system after the college management worsened their pay and conditions. There have been numerous other strikes as well as several votes of no confidence by the lecturers in their bosses and particularly Millham.

Several management positions have had a very high turnover — particularly the post of finance director. Lecturers feel that any decent managers are doomed to depart, willingly or otherwise. Meanwhile, despite revelations in the Scottish *Sunday Mail* that she was sacked from her previous job for theft and that she displayed a bullwhip on her office wall while facing bullying allegations, Millham has continued to employ learning manager Heather Murray.

# TV

**National Lottery – Wright Around The World (BBC1)**
**Top Gear (BBC2)**
**Superstars (BBC1)**

**THE announcement that *This Is Your Life* has finally been axed was supposed to prove that the BBC schedule is an unsentimental place where tired old shows are thrown out for new ones to flourish. But, even as the book closed on Michael Aspel, the corporation was to be found desperately saying "this is your new life" to a string of clapped-out formats.**

If, for example, a boat had needed to be relaunched as often as the Saturday night lottery show, everyone would have concluded by now that there was a huge hole in the hull. It was clear seven years ago that there would never be an entertaining watch in the Lottery because all the audience wanted to know was the numbers – and ever fewer of them even want that.

But the BBC can't be seen to be a mere bingo-caller and so the fight goes on to hang an entertaining format around the weekly balls-out. After experiments with Eammon Holmes, Anthea Turner, Paul Schofield and many others, the latest host to draw the unlucky number is former Arsenal striker Ian Wright. **Wright Around The World** was excitedly billed as a quiz with an international reach in which Wrighty would give someone the chance to take the journey of their dreams.

This sounded potentially interesting: a quiz show crossed with a travelogue, in which there would at least be some nice film of sunsets over the Taj Mahal and so on. In fact, as it turns out, the budget is so low that nobody goes anywhere during the actual programme apart from Wright himself, who dashes into an occasional pub or office in unspecified parts of Britain to select six contestants who then answer absurdly easy questions in a conventional studio setting.

The quiz is tricked out with a lot of business involving red and green globes (around the world, see) hidden and spun in a machine so that the game-show part of the programme for the first time closely resembles the Lottery draw itself. The effect, though, is to make the viewer impatient for the rotating spheres which might win us something, thus increasing the problem this format was designed to solve.

Wrighty is a decently blokey host, practising his catch-phrases "me old mate" and "get this". Well, get this, me old mate: you of all people should be able to tell the BBC that constantly shifting the goal-posts doesn't work.

**U.S. sitcom writing**

At the same time, they probably want to get an ex-jockey in to explain to the producers of **Top Gear** that there comes a point when a horse has been flogged too often and is so slow, old and ragged that it should simply be put down. Admittedly, even without Jeremy Clarkson there'd be a problem with the format, but the show would be marginally less irritating.

A few years ago, the BBC announced the end of *Top Gear*, with Clarkson moving to chat-show and travelogue formats and his sidekicks pulling over to Channel Five for *Fifth Gear*. Nothing Clarkson did, however, had the same appeal to the Alan Partridge parts of the BBC2 audience and so he's back in a format which promises to rethink the motoring show for the 21st century.

Clarkson, still unwisely in jeans although he's motored well past the 40 limit, stands in an aircraft hanger with a studio audience consisting of men in anoraks, so that the whole thing most resembles a version of *Top Of The Pops* for the over-60s. Two lackeys – Richard and James – slavishly reproduce the main presenter's sense of humour and speech-rhythms but their reward for this is that he keeps telling them how wrong everything they say is.

Nothing else about the format has changed at all. There's lots of laddish talk about torque and monologues from Clarkson which suggest that vehicles make him want to either ejaculate or urinate: "Look at that! Look at it! I think I've wet myself!"

Clarkson was the test-model for a new breed of male TV presenters who have replaced the writing and making of jokes in scripts with an ironic wobble on random words. His main co-driver on this glumming-down mission is Johnny Vaughan, who has foolishly been put in charge of a revived **Superstars**, the '70s show in which sportsmen competed against each other in a wacky decathlon of events.

The original had serving internationals and terrace favourites but insurance has reduced them now to a few locker-room forgottens. And, while the whole joke of the first version was that David Vine and Ron Pickering commentated as if this were the Olympics, Johnny is more interested in taking the piss than an Olympic drug-tester.

But, despite these three examples of the dangers of revamping, television is so short on new ideas that it can't be more than three years until Michael Aspel switches on TV to see *Is This Your Life?* with Johnny Vaughan or Paul O'Grady raising their eyebrows as they flick through a big red book now full of inverted commas.

*'Remote Controller'*

## JUST FANCY THAT!

The BBC was branded a disgrace last night – after refusing to scrap a show which trapped cops making racist remarks.

Outraged police chiefs say a Beeb reporter POSED as a bona fide recruit, SECRETLY filmed officers and allegedly PLIED them with booze to get them to talk.

— The *Sun*, 15 October.

The BBC are to be congratulated on their special investigation which exposed eight racist PCs. The attitudes of these bigoted men are disgusting in the extreme.

— The *Sun*, 22 October.

## MEDIA NEWS

**SO WHO is behind the ousting of Michael Green as chairman of the new ITV plc?**

A number of "disgruntled investors" are involved, many of whom are backing a certain Gerry Robinson as a replacement. Could one of these investors be Charles Allen, the new company's chief executive who has made no secret of his loathing for Green and who will benefit hugely by his removal?

Robinson stoutly defended Allen, chairman of Granada, when shareholders finally tired of paying for his ITV Digital disaster. A return to telly management for Robinson (now with Allied Domecq) would be an appropriate gesture.

The fact that the "upstart caterer" Robinson knows nothing about telly shouldn't be a problem. None of the other candidates – Sir Christopher Gent (Vodafone), Sir Brian Pitman (Lloyds TSB), John Nelson (Lazards) – do either.

**MANAGERS at the BBC's training and development centre, fresh from revelations that they had failed to comply with fair trade guidelines, continue to use Birtspeak to conceal efforts to persuade yet more trainers to take redundancy.**

A "high level backbone process" has been designed to produce such "key deliverables" as, er, training, which is now to be known as "development intervention". The other development intervention – termination of employment – continues apace.

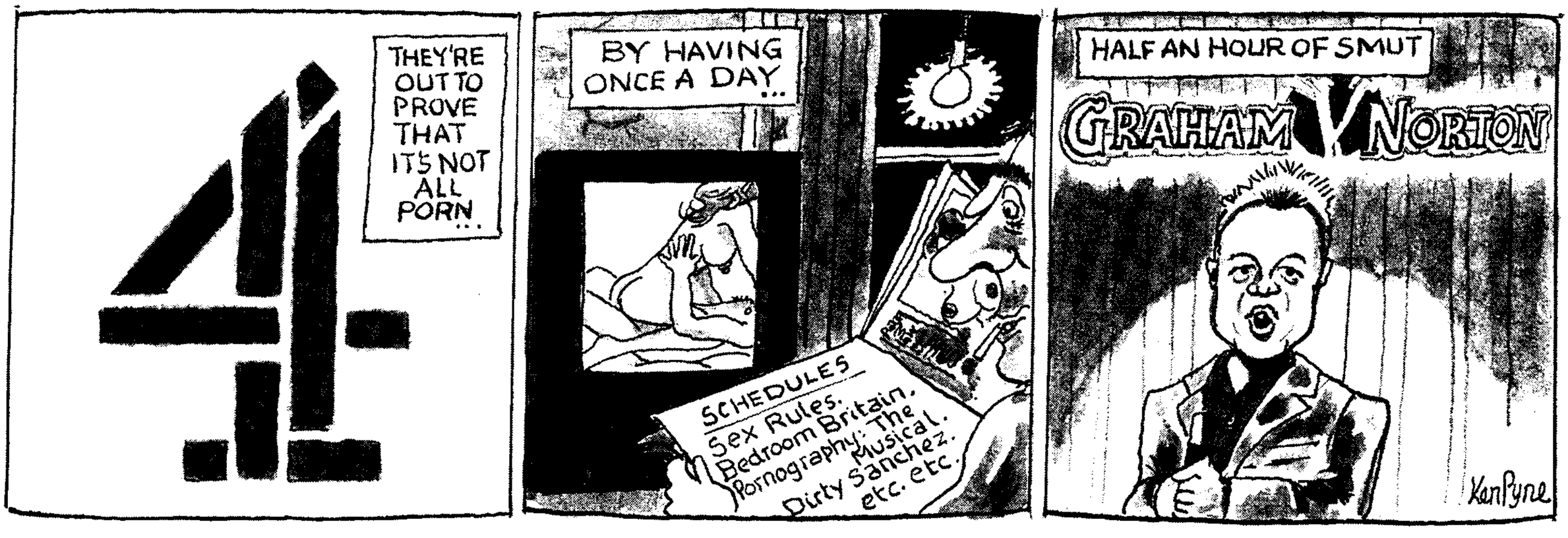
## Plugged In

If you don't have cable or satellite yet, it's time to beg a mate who has SKY!

The *Sun* (prop: R. Murdoch), 11/10/03

*(Submitted by James Coyle)*

*An occasional column devoted to cross-media plugs masquerading as news.*



# GOING LIVE

**BBC News 24 was less than illuminating when it went live to Sean Ley in Downing Street for the latest on Tony Blair's heart scare.**

It was after midnight when Ley revealed: "He has a very stressful job." A serious question from the studio then followed: "Do you think that if there was a recurrence of this that serious questions would be asked?"

Meanwhile the BBC's *News at Ten* went live to Westminster Abbey in an attempt to keep up with the emergency synod on gay clergy. Alas, the synod had taken place at Lambeth Palace, while the accompanying press conference had finished hours earlier at Church House…

**5 Live Sports Extra** *Digital only*
**10.15–12.30pm Rugby World Cup**
France v Fifi, live from Brisbane.
*Radio Times*

# DUMB BRITAIN

*The Weakest Link, BBC2*

**Anne Robinson**: What was the name of the poet who wrote "Ode To A Grecian Urn" in 1819?

**Contestant**: John Gielgud.

**Robinson**: "Achtung" is a word for warning in which European language?

**Contestant**: Chinese.

**Robinson**: Which country lies directly east of South Korea?

**Contestant**: North Korea.

## DUMB AMERICA

*The Tonight Show With Jay Leno*

**Jay Leno**: In what ship did the Pilgrim Fathers sail to America?

**Contestant**: The Titanic.

## DUMB & DUMBERER

*Beatentrack*

**NOTICE FOR STAFF**

**As of the 01/10/03**
**Staff will only be aloud**
**To have 30 mins on the**
**Internet, those 30 mins will**
**Taken on there lunch break,**
**Any member staff taking**
**Advantage of this right will**
**Be given there first warning**

– Poster from Beaten Track, the franchisee supplying tea, papers, etc at Newbury railway station. *(Submitted by Richard Grievson.)*

# AD NAUSEAM

***EYE* 1065 described the launch of the Nectar card, a joint venture between Sainsbury's, BP, Barclaycard and Debenhams that has become the mother of all reward cards.**

Despite its advertising claims, Nectar, we said, was "an ingenious means for companies to pool their customer databases". It was the marketing men, not the customers, who stood to reap the rewards, as by cross-referencing purchase details they could build up a precise picture of who buys what and when. No surprise then, that since the scheme's launch, Vodafone, Ford, Adam's and the Thresher group have all jumped on the gravy train.

One year on and initial doubts have proved well-founded. Last week Sainsbury blithely announced that it is to hand Nectar card data to its suppliers' marketing men. They will get details of how you shop which can be used to further target advertising.

Although Nectar boasts eight major players, there are actually 64 companies who can receive the pooled data. These include everyone from American Airlines right down, bizarrely, to many of Britain's racecourses. Virgin, Odeon, The Tussauds Group, Best Western and Argos are among other beneficiaries. The question is: what kind of data about you does Sainsbury's intend to divulge?

Nectar's privacy policy states that "information regarding the specific goods or services you buy from a particular participating company will **not** be passed to any other participating company except where required to operate the Nectar programme." Quite what is "required to operate the Nectar programme" is left unexplained. Sainsbury's did not return the *Eye*'s calls, and there appears to be no way of finding out what data the group of companies are sharing.

Still, at least we can trust Nectar's umbrella company, Loyalty Management UK Ltd, to look after our personal details. Whoops! No we can't actually. When the Nectar card was launched, in among a host of administrative howlers, some customers applying for a Nectar card online found themselves presented with other cardholders' personal details. Safe as houses, then.

**TOP WORK from financiers M&G with a new full-page press ad that's been gracing the broadsheets recently.**

The ad is for the M&G Recovery Fund, which invests in companies that are performing poorly, and it includes a picture of *Carry On* stalwart Hattie Jacques dressed in a nurse's uniform. Ms Jacques is captioned: "We'll have them on their feet in no time"; and it goes on to say that M&G "don't just invest in companies that are in poor health, we also nurse them through until they make a full recovery."

Unfortunately Hattie Jacques died in 1980, so she will be nursing no one through to recovery, least of all herself. It's that sort of attention to detail that makes M&G such a great bet for your money.

# SPLIT personalities

Bob Moore

**Ruud Van Nistelrooy Hattersley**

# POT AND KETTLE NEWS

**VIDEO GAME distributers Nintendo of Europe (NOE) are coming down heavily on small games importers in the UK who buy games direct from the US or Japan and sell them to games enthusiasts before the official European release date.**

A letter from NOE's solicitors threatens to sue for trade mark infringement and passing off unless the firms undertake to pay Nintendo's costs and damages.

But hang on a minute! Isn't this the same Nintendo that was fined a record-shattering £94m for ripping off its European customers in a seven-year price fixing scam to prevent cheaper UK copies of games being exported to the continent? No wonder gamers and games sellers took matters into their own hands.

## THE SMALL PRINT

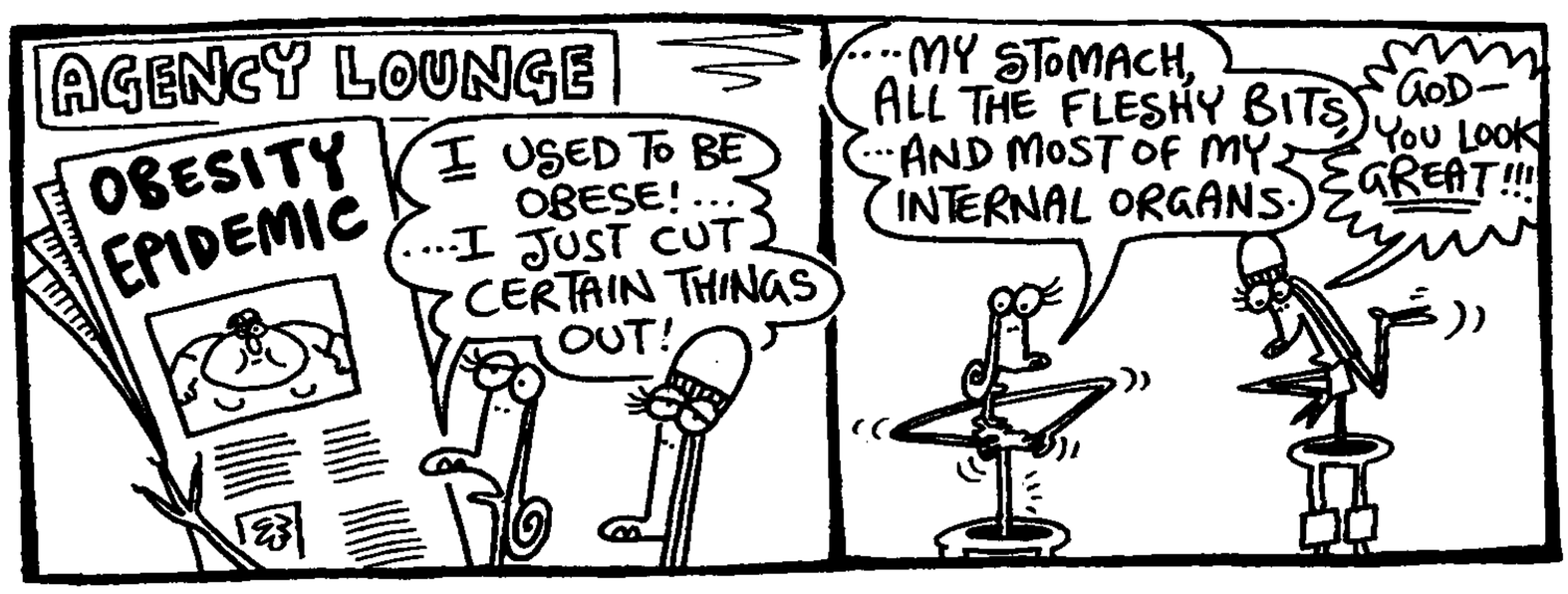
**AN occasional column for advertising claims with ludicrous rubric…**

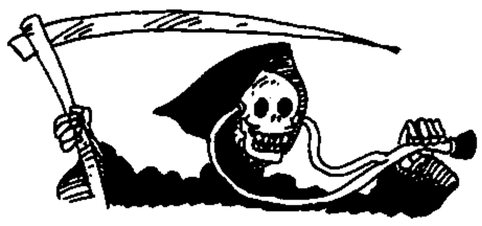
***"NOW EUROPE IS 20p FOR 60 MINUTES"***
(BT press ad, 29 September)

*"Requires annual minimum call spend of £750 and reconciliation fees may apply. 3p set up fee. Pence per minute rate applies after 60 minutes. Pence per minute rates apply once the total number of capped calls from any one line to a single number exceeds an average of 4 hours per day in any calendar month."*

# SUPERMODELS

KERBER


AGENCY LOUNGE
OBESITY EPIDEMIC
I USED TO BE OBESE!…
…I JUST CUT CERTAIN THINGS OUT!
…MY STOMACH, ALL THE FLESHY BITS, …AND MOST OF MY INTERNAL ORGANS.
GOD— YOU LOOK GREAT!!!



## DOING THE ROUNDS

**IT'S not often that one of my local hospitals tops a league table, but the £44m loss notched up by the North Bristol NHS trust is now "the worst in NHS history", according to an independent investigation.**

However, the investigators decided to absolve the department of health and the Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire strategic health authority for failing to spot the crisis. So, how did it happen? Because the board "wasn't fully focused on the financial issues."

Tony Woolgar, the trust's former chief executive, quit last December taking a £71,000 performance-unrelated pay-off with him. But many of the other senior managers involved are still working in the NHS. This double standard particularly dismays clinical staff, many of whom are now suspended or sacked at the drop of a hat for poor performance.

The Bristol public inquiry recognised the need to regulate NHS management more closely and recommended a mandatory ethical code, overseen by a regulatory body for managers. But this has yet to be introduced. The damage done to the patients and staff of North Bristol by this incompetent management, desperate to meet political targets at all costs, has been considerable. But as DoH director of health and social care delivery John Bacon put it: "There is a difference between poor performance and actual wrongdoing. With poor performance, we are duty bound to look after an employee, and where necessary place them elsewhere." One rule for NHS managers, another for everyone else.

**WHEN money's tight, a politicised NHS neglects politically unsexy illnesses. The recommendations of the Bristol heart inquiry have been used to promote quality in the NHS, not least with the introduction of National Service Frameworks, but as one cardiologist put it: "More than 10 percent of UK paediatric cardiologists have left to work abroad in the last few years and, in most parts of the UK, the care of patients with congenital heart disease has been strangled by the obsession with adult NSF coronary requirements. We strongly suspect politicians will ignore all the advice and leave things as they are."**

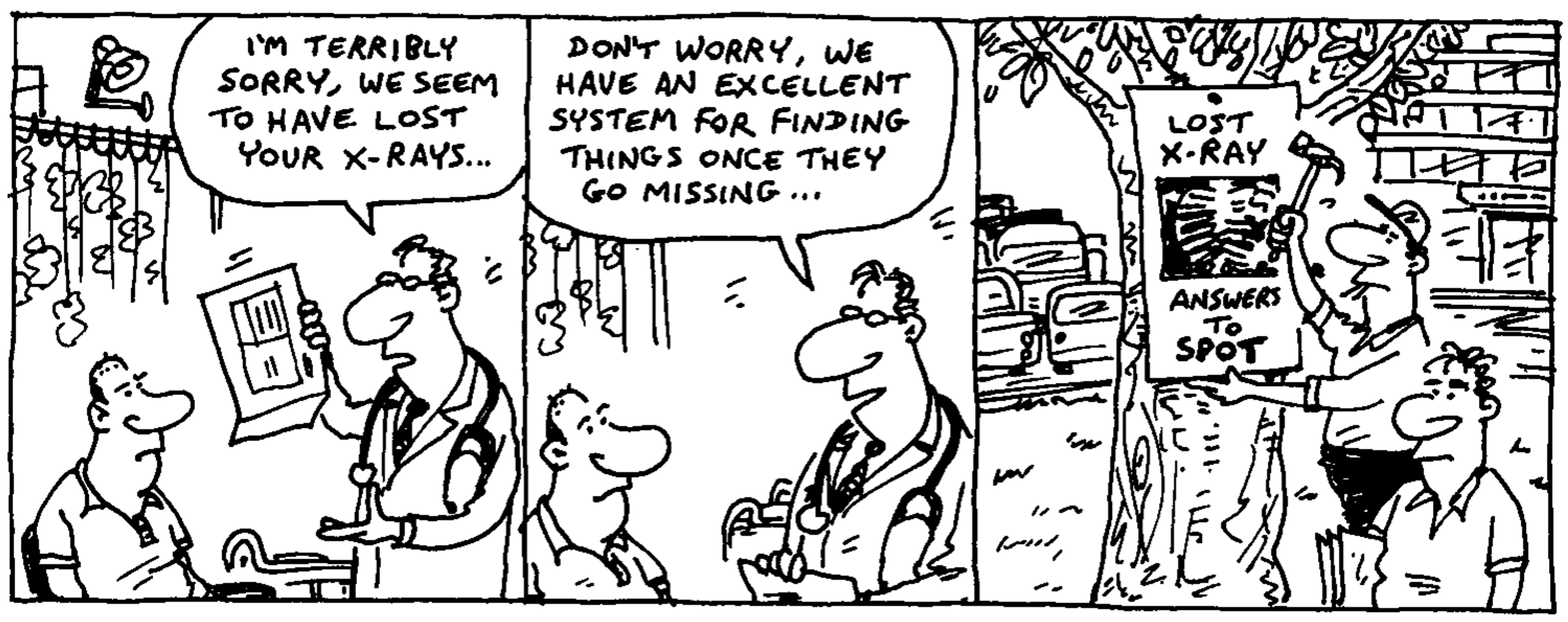
Unsexy mental health is also running into difficulties. As Mental Health Foundation chief executive Dr Andrew McCullock says: "There is very limited evidence of progress in most of the NSF standards." There is a "massive shortfall" in numbers of early intervention and crisis resolution teams, a key NHS plan target, possibly because the target was absurdly unrealistic in the first place. "To create 330 crisis resolution teams in 4-5 years was just a silly target," he says. But targets in one area deprive care in others: across the country, psychiatry beds (already in short supply) are closed down to fund crisis teams. So there's nowhere to admit patients when there really is a crisis.

The real crisis in mental health is apparent if you look at the buildings. Four years ago, health secretary Frank Dobson put mental health as a top priority and gave it the first NSF. But the sickest patients are still treated on crumbling, cramped, damp wards. London's St George's mental health trust alone has an "annual maintenance backlog" of £100m, despite already spending £2.5m to try to keep its buildings habitable. There is clear evidence that patients with severe mental illness do better in calm, well-maintained buildings but fortunately for "new" Labour, most of them don't vote.

*M.D.*

## off your trolley

REEVE & WAY


I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, WE SEEM TO HAVE LOST YOUR X-RAYS...
DON'T WORRY, WE HAVE AN EXCELLENT SYSTEM FOR FINDING THINGS ONCE THEY GO MISSING...
LOST X-RAY
ANSWERS TO SPOT

## SIGNAL FAILURES

### Who's in, who's out

**THE loss of capable rail managers contributed to the disastrous outcome of privatisation. But the industry appears to have learned nothing.**

Take **Julia Clarke**, for example, the strategic rail authority's first freight director. She was widely respected, not least because her department was the only one in the SRA to publish a strategy on time. This was useful because rail freight firms are genuinely commercial – investing their own money in equipment and competing for custom – unlike the subsidy-dependent passenger sector.

When the SRA started backtracking on its freight promises, the Rail Freight Group (representing customers and train operators) publicly voiced alarm through its chairman Tony Berkeley, a Labour peer and Clarke's husband. SRA chairman Richard Bowker, furious that anyone dared criticise his decisions, accused Clarke of breaching confidentiality. As Berkeley had used information from the public domain, the charge was quickly dropped but Clarke was fired anyway (*Eye* 1073).

A juicy employment tribunal was in the offing where Bowker would explain his special brand of personnel management. The headlines would have been so embarrassing that Clarke has now been given a large out-of-court settlement – reportedly more than £100,000 – on condition she keeps quiet.

Naturally the payout for Bowker's impetuosity and for avoiding bad press comes not from his £256,000pa salary but from taxpayers and a rail budget already seriously over-committed. The damage will be greater because Clarke ("one of the best strategic thinkers in the rail industry", according to the official press release on her SRA appointment) has left the industry. The SRA's brief statement on the humiliating settlement (strangely not available on the SRA's website) admits it dismissed her unfairly and that she did valuable work, her strategy remaining "the basis for the SRA's ongoing freight policy".

Clarke isn't the first high-profile officer to have left Bowker's SRA. **Mike Grant** had his contract as chief executive cut short, also at great public expense (£280,000 compensation), to make way for someone Richard Bowker trusted and respected – himself.

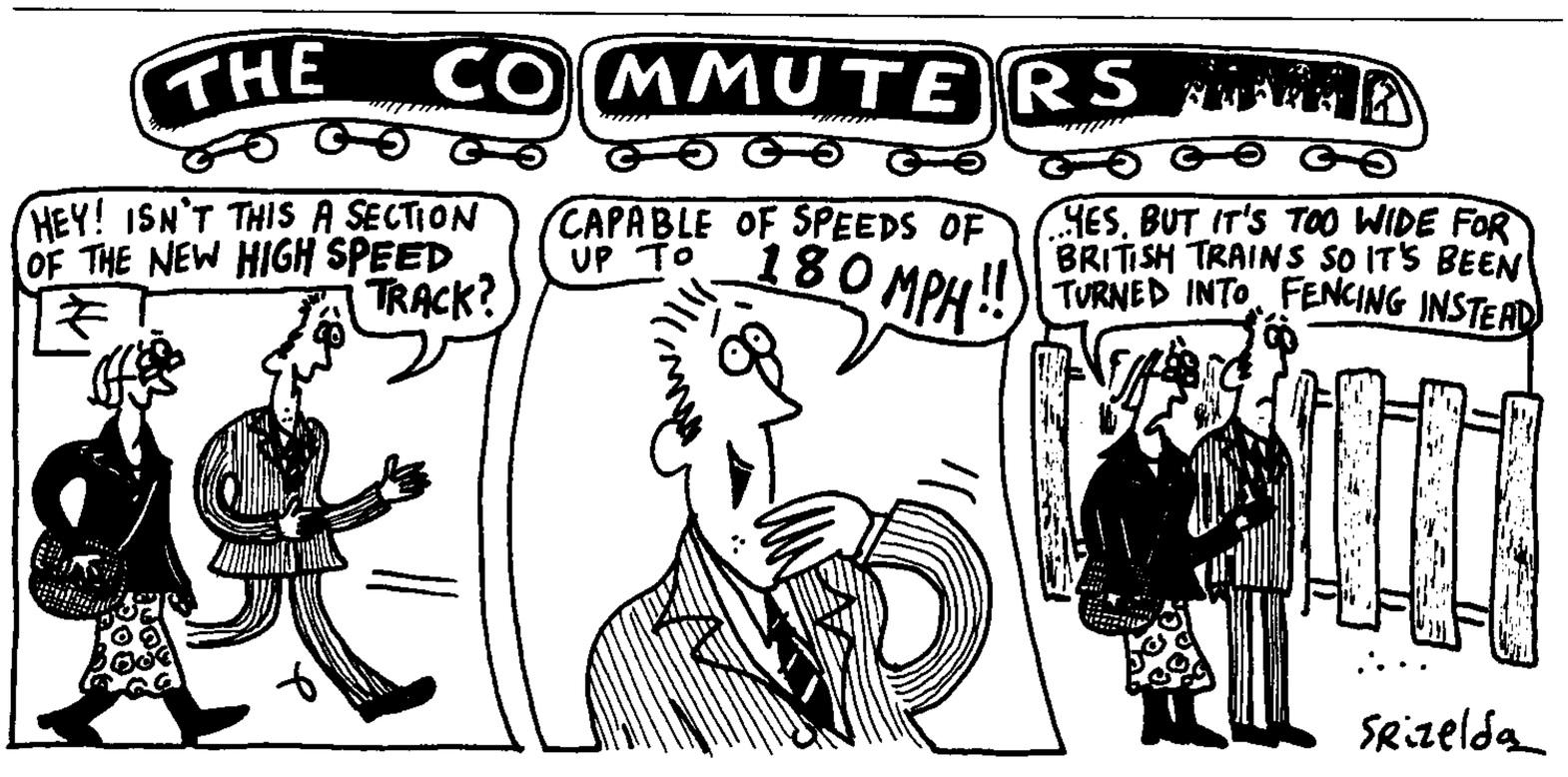
Last month **Chris Austin**, formerly British Rail's parliamentary officer, was sidelined from his role as SRA corporate affairs director to the job of "developing and implementing plans for rural and more lightly used lines". Presumably he'll have the unenviable task of explaining the SRA's plan to slash maintenance of such lines – with predictable results for passengers and freight customers – to scrape together some more cash to throw into the railway's notorious black holes.

Austin's former role went to SRA media director **Ceri Evans**, who is now in charge of building good relationships between the SRA and parliamentarians – a crucial job now the SRA is begging for more cash. This year of course Evans described Lord Berkeley, chairman of the Rail Freight Group, as a "fucking dilettante" and a "slightly delusional and deranged individual" (*Eye* 1075). It will be interesting to see how much respect he gets in Westminster as a former aide to William Hague and Steve Norris who defected to Labour when the 2001 election result was obvious.

**Chris Green** was among the talented BR managers dumped overboard at privatisation. He was rescued by Richard Branson's boat but spends his time trying to keep Beardie's hopeless business plans afloat as Virgin Trains' chief executive (*Eyes passim*). By now he should have become BR chairman. Other BR outcasts earn a decent living as consultants because the rail companies are so short of expertise; one key difference is that they were accountable for their decisions when they worked for BR.

There are masses of new openings in the industry for bureaucrats, such as chairman of the "delay attribution board"; passengers will be relieved to know this board will ensure "responsibility for delays on the rail network can be apportioned fairly and accurately" between the companies involved. The SRA recently advertised for an "operations advisory team leader" and two operations advisors. The rail regulator's office needs a "deputy director of infrastructure and asset management" and an entire regulatory board to keep tabs on Network Rail – despite NR being funded, directed and guaranteed by the state.

*'Dr B. Ching'*


THE COMMUTERS
HEY! ISN'T THIS A SECTION OF THE NEW HIGH SPEED TRACK?
CAPABLE OF SPEEDS OF UP TO 180 MPH!!
..YES. BUT IT'S TOO WIDE FOR BRITISH TRAINS SO IT'S BEEN TURNED INTO FENCING INSTEAD
Srizelda

## ROTTEN BOROUGHS

# CREDIBILITY GAP

ATTEMPTS by Hammersmith & Fulham council to hush up the financial crisis in the pension fund (*Eye* 1091) are already coming unstuck.

Andrew Slaughter, the council's ambitious "new" Labour leader, has so far dismissed reports of a £173m deficit and rising pension contributions as "distorted" and "sensationalised." Meanwhile his council officers reassured staff that the spring stock market rally may have cut the gap to £130m.

An internal report by the pension fund's own actuaries reveals that the funding gap instead widened by the end of June to £179m – despite the biggest rise in share prices in four years.

Officers also claimed that the deficit, equal to £2,700 for every household in the borough, would have "no budgetary implications" and would not force any special rise on employer contributions or council taxes. In fact the actuaries warn of "potentially unmanageable" rises in council contributions, from 11 percent of staff pay to as much as 35 percent. As councillors recently voted to include themselves within the pension scheme, this would entail £14,000 in contributions alone on Andrew Slaughter's £40,000 a year salary.

The actuaries warn that Hammersmith & Fulham must try to balance "solvency considerations and affordability". They urge speedy action to solve the "large short-term deficiency" but note that even an emergency £10m injection would have little effect.

The council has kept the actuaries' report, a copy of which has been seen by the *Eye*, under wraps since July.

Finance officers now admit their initial statements were not "full and frank". Meanwhile there are rumours of growing discontent within the governing Labour group over Slaughter's handling of the affair. The leader himself, who chairs the pension fund investment panel, is suddenly keeping an unusually low profile – and doubtless hoping the affair will not damage his hunt for a safe parliamentary seat.

● **CONSERVATIVE conference promises to be nicer to pensioners have been taken to heart by Tory councillors in Huddersfield. The local party has issued a press release attacking the government's "crazy" and "bureaucratic" pension credit scheme, accompanied by a photograph of Kirklees Tory councillors Rob Light and Andrew Palfreeman chatting to an elderly gent, identified only as a "worried pensioner". Those who received the photo as an email attachment were, however, able to read its electronic tagline: "Robandfogie.jpg". Isn't technology marvellous?**

# HEREFORDSHIRE BULL

WHILE Britain's rail passengers celebrate the withdrawal of Jarvis plc from track maintenance contracts, the people of Herefordshire are getting used to the news that Britain's favourite engineering company has taken over a raft of county council services and functions.

Ambitiously, these include: highway maintenance and construction; transport; property maintenance and construction; car parks; fencing; landscaping; cleaning; catering; printing; fleet maintenance; and emergency works.

News of the £270m contract surprised both council staff and taxpayers who weren't consulted before the hung council's cabinet let the contract. A resident who asked on what basis the contract was awarded received the baffling answer: "The contract was let under the European Union negotiation procedure for contract procurement using the exemption provided by Article 7, paragraph 2(C)... on a balanced scorecard of price, quality and business excellence."

Senior council officers have received a decree (sorry, "team briefing paper") from chief executive Neil Pringle which makes it plain that Jarvis, not the council, is now in the driving seat when it comes to sub-contracting future work.

"Every piece of work" in the categories above must be given to Herefordshire Jarvis Services Ltd, it says, and "all work up to a value of £200,000". Futhermore, "decisions about whether or not the contractors or consultants are capable of any individual commission must come from themselves". Small local businesses, such as printers, caterers and fencing contractors, who stand to lose millions of pounds worth of business, are dismayed, to say the least.

● **COUNCIL taxpayers pay £14 for every plate of biscuits consumed by members at meetings of Brighton and Hove city council (current deficit, £18m). The biccies are supplied by private company Ecovert, with whom Skidrow-on-Sea has an eight-year contract. According to a councillor, "they aren't even nice biscuits".**

# BRAIN DRAIN

MICHAEL BRAIN had an unblemished record as a benefit fraud investigator until, in 1999, he made the mistake of investigating a prominent Labour councillor.

In cooperation with investigators from the department of social security's Benefits Agency, Mr Brain, who works for Labour-controlled Corby borough council, gathered sufficient evidence for Mary Brown, a member of Corby borough and Northamptonshire county councils, to be charged with falsely claiming benefits while she was on the board of the local NHS trust and also in receipt of an occupational pension.

Shortly before Brown's case was due to come to court in 2001, however, three things happened: she moved to Glasgow; she stood down as a councillor; and the DSS dropped the prosecution without explanation.

That might have been the rather puzzling end of the matter had not Mr Brain's employers at Corby council simultaneously decided that, far from being the irreproachable investigator previously thought, he should be suspended while 78 charges of "misconduct" were brought against him. The result was a "final written warning", pertaining to the four most serious charges of disclosure of information and breach of surveillance regulations.

An employment tribunal where Mr Brain, 60, is claiming compensation for being harassed for being a whistleblower, heard earlier this month that the treatment he had suffered from his bosses had caused him such stress he had been off work for months. He has been moved to less skilled duties by the council, but has been unable to get another job elsewhere because of his "disciplinary" record. The tribunal has been adjourned until January, when it may be revealed why a man should be harassed by his superiors simply for doing his job impartially – however embarrassing that might be for his bosses' political masters.

● ***PR Week* magazine has revealed that three Labour-controlled London boroughs, Greenwich, Haringey and Newham, have the largest "communications teams" of any local authority in Britain. Greenwich employs 47 spinners; Haringey and Newham 30 and 29 respectively. Legions of PR hacks may enable councils to talk the talk, but can they walk the walk? In the audit commission's performance assessment last year – ranking councils' delivery of services on a scale from "poor" to "excellent" – Greenwich and Newham achieved "fair" while Haringey was "weak".**

## EDUCASHUN NEWZ

**THE *Times Higher Education Supplement* ran a long piece in September, talking up the prospects of Doncaster College (*Eyes passim ad nauseam*) metamorphosing into the University of Doncaster by the year 2010.**

Education was key to the town's regeneration, said Doncaster mayor Martin Winter, who made such a big impression on *THES* hackette Claire Sanders that she referred to him throughout as "Martin Walker".

But because the project is in the hands of such masters of bollockspeak as Winter and Doncaster College principal George Holmes, it is not called anything as mundane as "Doncaster University". Rather, it is "EducationCity", a concept so surrounded by buzzwords as to be almost invisible.

Holmes, who says his mission is to lift the people of Doncaster out of poverty and ignorance, has made a good start. On himself. He gets by on a modest £166,000 pa, free Mercedes, and a free flat.

Alas, there is one big cloud on the horizon. Two years ago Doncaster College failed its Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) inspection. If it fails another one, due this week, it could lose the right to provide higher education altogether..

Naturally every effort has been made to ensure that the college presents itself in the best possible light when the inspectors arrive. So staff who turned up for a pre-inspection meeting last week were not impressed to discover that the college's head of HE, Peter Hymans, and his deputy Graham Stevens, had sent apologies. They were away on crucial business abroad... a booze cruise to Calais.

**GCSE English teachers in Northern Ireland were left baffled by a missive from their Council for Examinations and Assessment outlining which poets were suitable for study in the "poetry from other cultures and traditions" module.**

After explaining that poets from Wales and Scotland would be acceptable, the document lists examples such as Liz Lochhead, Robert Burns, Dylan Thomas and that other well known Welshman, er, William Carlos Williams. The Americans might have something to say about the co-option of the great writer from New Jersey.

## IT'S GRIM UP NORTH LONDON

KNIFE & PACKER

I SEE A LONG LIFE-LINE AND... OH BUT WAIT... THIS IS MOST CURIOUS... I'VE NEVER SEEN A LINE LIKE THIS... VERY MYSTERIOUS...
IT COULD MEAN A TERRIBLE HAPPENING, A PROFOUNDLY SHATTERING EXPERIENCE...
TOO RIGHT, MADAM ROSA, THAT'S AN OLD BATTLE SCAR FROM LAST SUMMER
I HAD AN AWFUL ACCIDENT WHILST PEELING AN ENDIVE

# NOOKS and CORNERS

**ONE of the architectural – and social – tragedies of recent years has been the abandonment of the great Victorian mental asylums. Yes, they were sometimes badly and cruelly run. But they were well built and humanely designed, often in spacious, beautiful grounds. Now, surplus to requirements because of "care in the community", most of these fine buildings have been flogged off. Very few have been converted to housing, as they deserved; instead they have been cleared to make way for new housing estates from which somebody has made a tidy profit.**

Whittingham Hospital near Preston, opened in 1873, offers a new twist on the saga. One of eight such massive institutions on huge sites once administered by the Lancashire Asylums Board,

**Administration block: Whittingham Hospital**

the NHS has wanted to get rid of it for years. Many of the ward blocks have gone, but the original buildings and the chapel, by Henry Littler of Manchester, survive.

The NHS Executive (North West) proposed building 950 houses together with commercial premises on the site. Opposed by Preston city council and local residents, this was turned down on appeal after public inquiry in 2002. But now Preston has approved a plan for 584 houses and a 20,000m$^2$ business park at Whittingham. So what's changed? Well, if permission were granted, the NHS said it was prepared to contribute to the cost of building the Broughton by-pass, for which planning permission was given in 2001, so making a useful link between the M55 and Whittingham. This comes under a "section 106 agreement" between the NHS, Lancashire county council and Preston city council. How much money is involved isn't clear, but the cost of the by-pass is £9m while £6.867m will come from "development contributions, previous expenditure spent on land and design and land resale".

Those on hospital waiting lists will be delighted the NHS Executive is prepared to act as speculator and spend taxpayers' money on a "sweetener" to encourage a purely commercial development on land originally acquired for public benefit.

COUNTRY LIFE *for 2 October carried an "exclusive" about "London's New Tudor Palace" by Simon Thurley, the architectural historian and chief executive of English Heritage. This described the neo-Tudor house on the Chelsea Embankment lately built around Crosby Hall for the financier Christopher Moran.*

*Crosby Hall was, of course, the late medieval hall once in the City rescued and reerected by the London county council for public benefit; and it is good to know that "the newly created courtyard succeeds in telling the story of architecture in England from 1560s to about 1600."*

*What readers of* Country Life *weren't told (but readers of this organ will know) was that after Moran acquired this (once publicly accessible) monument from the London Residuary Body in 1991 and expelled the leaseholders, the Federation of University Women, he lost a legal battle in 1999 against his excellent architects, Carden & Godfrey, whom he had dismissed, and had to pay them unpaid fees and costs. Nor were they told that Moran's lawyers successfully challenged the express condition of his planning permission that limited public access be allowed. Still, I suppose we should be glad to have* Country Life*'s lovely colour pix as they are all that most of us will ever now see of Crosby Hall.*

GLAD to report that the campaign (www.SaveGilthill.org) against the gratuitous demolition of the 110-year-old Gilthill School near Nottingham (*Eye* 1089) is strong as ever, though Nottingham county council is still determined to pull it down despite all its waffle about "listening to the community."

At a public meeting council architect Robert Parry proudly announced that "my newly designed school will last a maximum of 60 years *and* will be your new heritage," after which the assistant director of education Dave Wilson observed that "there may be no need for schools in 60 years".

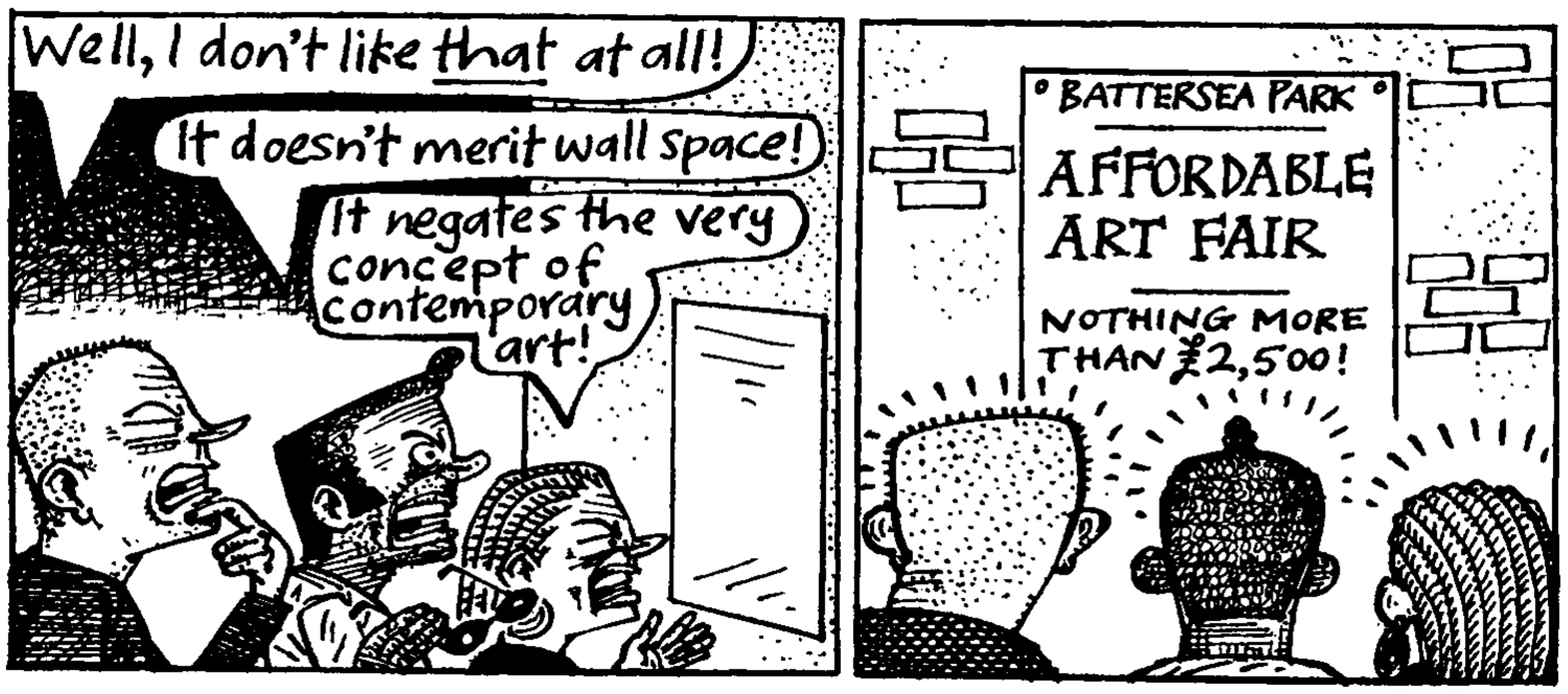
Councillor Terry Butler, meanwhile, is reported to have said that "I don't care what 1,500 petitioners say… I want for working-class children what upper- and middle-class children get. These Victorian buildings are crumbling old wrecks."

Ignore the fact that well-built old schools only crumble through culpable lack of maintenance. Has it not occurred to him that some children enjoy the privilege of being educated in buildings which are Victorian and even older (eg Eton, Winchester, Harrow)?

*'Piloti'*

## YOUNG BRITISH ARTISTS

BY BIRCH

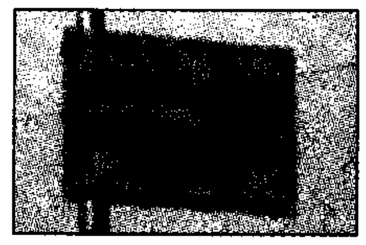

Well, I don't like that at all!
It doesn't merit wall space!
It negates the very concept of contemporary art!
BATTERSEA PARK
AFFORDABLE ART FAIR
NOTHING MORE THAN £2,500!

# I-SPY

**Submitted by Richard Gibbs, Nicholas Pine, Sue Flood, Richard Madeley.**

*Isle of Bute*

*Isle of Wight*



*Japan*

*Hertfordshire*

£10 paid for similar submissions. *(SAE required for return of photographs.)*

## MUSIC & MUSICIANS

**IT HARDLY makes the news these days when orchestras collapse. But it's comparatively rare for one to bite the dust before it even makes its debut concert.**

That was the achievement this month of the brand new and spectacularly short-lived Newcastle Gateshead Symphony. Set up by a young, ambitious, Tyneside-born conductor called John Wilson, it was two years in the planning and designed to fill a gap in largescale orchestral provision for the north-east.

The opening concerts had been advertised for months to take place in Newcastle City Hall in October and November. Players were booked. Tickets sold. A new work was commissioned from Sir Richard Rodney Bennett. Everything appeared to be in place… except the orchestra, which promptly vanished down the tubes without playing a note. Apparently the financing of the project fell apart when an unnamed sponsor suddenly withdrew.

People in Gateshead, and a number of musicians who had planned their diaries around promised work from Mr Wilson, want to know what's going on. The best Wilson has offered is the bizarrely lame excuse that he'd have done more to save the orchestra but for lack of space in *his* diary. He's now talking about getting a "rescue plan" off the ground next year. But how do you rescue something that never existed in the first place?

**IN IRELAND the Musicians Union has stepped into a territorial scrap between two orchestras fighting for space in the same opera festival.**

As reported long ago in this column, the Wexford Festival has been upsetting home-grown musicians by hiring in the cheap-and-cheerful National Philharmonic Orchestra of Belarus to accompany its stagings, rather than the more expensive (but hey, Irish!) RTE orchestra from Dublin.

For some years the RTE has thought of Wexford as a private fiefdom. Now, it's not exactly minded to bow out with grace. It has been trying hard to wreck the festival's negotiations with the BBC for outside-Ireland broadcasts. And the other week it persuaded the Musicians Union to picket the opening night of the 2003 season.

Not that this was terribly effective. Hardly any of the new-rich Wexford clientele, a-glitter in long-frocks and black tie, seemed to notice. "Did you say there was a protest?" said one lady straight out of a big, black limousine. "I saw some funny-looking people but I thought it was a fringe event."

*'Lunchtime O'Boulez'*

# Letters

## What a tragic way to make a living

*Sir,*

*In an article in Private Eye (1089) entitled "Nooks and Corners" the following was stated:*

*"The main problem is that Gilthill has been so successful it is now too small, and some children are being taught in portacabins."*

*I am writing to point out that "Portakabin" is a registered Trade Mark which may only be used to describe buildings manufactured by this Company.*

*In order to protect our rights to the exclusive use of the Mark, we must take active steps to discourage its use as a generic term, and would ask that the attention of your staff be drawn to this letter and they be asked to use the designation "Portakabin" only in reference to the buildings of Portakabin Ltd.*

*It is clearly not practicable for you to check whether all reports you receive mentioning "Portakabin" are in fact, referring to products of ours. In view of this, may I ask that, in any future cases of this kind, you use the term "portable building" or "relocatable building", there can then be no possibility of error.*

*I do assure you that this is of considerable importance to us and would, therefore, be most grateful for your cooperation in this matter.*

*Yours sincerely,*
*DICK ELLERSHAW,*
*Trade Marks Officer, Portakabin Ltd, York.*

## Portakabin

*Sir,*

*I was disappointed to see your esteemed organ fall into the current tabloid habit of knocking the BBC, particularly in regard to the classical music output on Radio 3 (Eye 1091).*

*If Gerald Kaufman and Lunchtime O'Boulez took a cursory glance at the relevant pages of Radio Times they would see the average run-down as follows:*

*12 midnight to 4pm the next day, non-stop classics; 5-7pm, In Time, classical recordings interspersed with interviews with performers; 7.30-9.30pm, orchestral concerts or opera relays.*

*That makes 20 hours out of a round-the-clock transmission, ie over 80 percent. How does this compare with Classic FM?*

*Yours sincerely,*
*MICHAEL BOYCE,*
*Woodford Green, Essex.*

## Portakabin

*Sir,*

*I noted with interest the quotation attributed to Sir Keith Joseph in HP Sauce (1090), in which you quote that gentleman as claiming that "the working classes were breeding too much".*

*I would like to correct that mis-quote. Sir Keith actually said that "the balance of our population, our human stock, is threatened..." [on account of] the high and rising proportion of children being born to mothers "least fitted to bring children into the world", having been "pregnant in adolescence in social classes 4 and 5".*

*It is worthwhile bringing to your attention the fact that mothers, pregnant in adolescence, belonging to the unskilled (social class 5) or semi-skilled (social class 4) sectors of the population do not represent "the working classes". Yours is the pompous and high-handed prejudice, not Sir Keith Joseph.*

*Having said that, your patronising and ill-informed statement is only what one could expect from middle class, public school educated hacks, who no doubt spend their lives trying to be as far removed from the "working classes" as possible, and are therefore ill-equipped to undertake such social commentary.*

*Indeed, Backbiter's stance is a direct rejection of a now widely accepted fact, that on the whole, children born to mothers who are barely older than children themselves, are at a significant disadvantage to those born to older, married parents, who themselves are working class, or indeed members of any other social class.*

*Speaking as a member of that much maligned "working class", I feel the late Sir Keith Joseph deserves some acknowledgement of your rather sloppy and skewed reporting.*

*Yours faithfully,*
*GORDON NORRIE,*
*Via email.*

## Portakabin

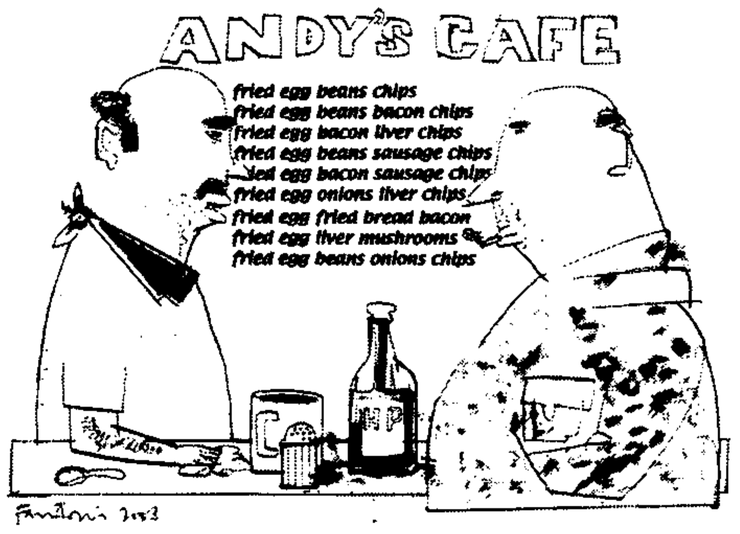
*Sir,*

*Independent Lawyer and the Legal Aid Practitioners Group, joint organisers of the Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year Awards, would like to clarify that when Cherie Booth referred to legal aid lawyers as underpaid, she was not referring to herself. She was referring to the ordinary lawyers earning similar salaries to teachers who provide an extraordinary service to the sort of victims of injustice whose causes you highlight in your esteemed organ.*

*The winners of the awards included Richard Egan, who caused the collapse of the FBI's arguments that Lotfi Raissi was involved in 9/11; and Nicola Mackintosh, who has been fighting for the rights of vulnerable people in institutional care. Nominations have just opened for the 2004 awards. If any of your readers or writers would like to nominate someone, forms can be obtained from us by e-mail at laly@lapg.co.uk or on 020 7336 8565.*

*Yours sincerely,*
*RICHARD MILLER,*
*Director Legal Aid Practitioners Group, London EC1.*

## Scenes You Seldom See


ANDY'S CAFE
fried egg beans chips
fried egg beans bacon chips
fried egg bacon liver chips
fried egg beans sausage chips
fried egg bacon sausage chips
fried egg onions liver chips
fried egg fried bread bacon
fried egg liver mushrooms
fried egg beans onions chips

*"And there's a big selection of salads, quiches and fresh fruit if you'd prefer"*

## Portakabin

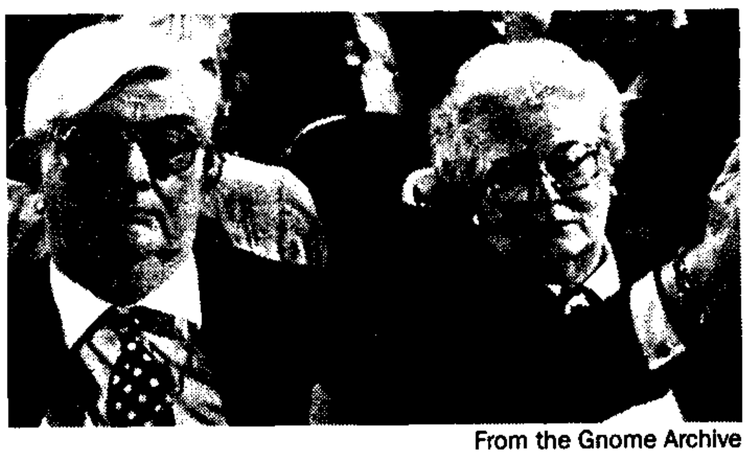
*Sir,*

*Your esteemed organ gives me a lot of pleasure on a regular basis. However, recently, your scathing comments on PVC windows have left me feeling sad and a little persecuted.*

*For the last four years I have tried to employ someone to paint the window frames and doors of my house. I was prepared to pay handsomely for the work to be done, but to no avail. In this country of university-educated over-achievers, it is almost impossible to get any practical small-scale work done. Finally, and to prevent my windows' total disintegration, I succumbed to the lure of PVC. It may not be perfect, but at least I don't risk decapitation every time I leave the house.*

*Yours faithfully,*
*JENNIFER THATCHER*
*Timsbury, Bath.*

***PS:** Anyone know a good plumber?*



From the Gnome Archive

## Portakabin

*Sir,*

*I write to you because I am really upset about the inclusion of my photograph and that of my friend Mrs Margaret Slade in your article about the leadership of the Conservative Party on page 21 of the current issue (1091) of Private Eye.*

*Apart from anything else the implication is that we were at the Conservative Party Conference in Blackpool earlier this month. Neither of us was there. In fact the photograph used must be several years old because it is some time since we both attended the same conference. In addition it must have been taken long BEFORE Ian [sic] Duncan Smith became leader. For your magazine to imply it had anything to do with the Conference Highlights this year is completely false.*

*All that apart, I do not associate myself in any way with the content of the article. In fact it has been a considerable embarrassment to me because I am an elected County Councillor. Fellow colleagues assume that I have been a party to some of the activities in Blackpool after reading your article and as I have already explained I was never there.*

*I would be grateful if you would explain how this error occurred and exactly how you intend to repair some of the fallout and considerable embarrassment this has had on me.*

*Yours sincerely,*
*NIGEL BROOK*
*Hitchin, Herts.*

*Sir,*

*I wish to refer you to page 21 of last week's Private Eye (1091) where the main subject matter was "Blackpool 2003, Conference Highlights", but more particularly to the photograph which appears at the foot of the page, next to photographs of Iain Duncan Smith. I was amazed to find a picture of me sitting next to County Councillor Nigel Brook at a Conservative Party Conference, including the caption "We want to see the back of you".*

*This has caused a great deal of embarrassment as the photograph with its caption gives the impression that Mr Brook and I are engaged in orchestrating anti-Iain Duncan Smith activities. Nothing could be further from the truth.*

*The picture you have used conveys to your readers that it was from the Conservative Party Conference in Blackpool, earlier this month. In actual fact the picture is at least 4 or 5 years old and this is substantiated by the following facts:*

*I did not attend the Conference in Blackpool this year.*

*I did not attend the Conference in Bournemouth last year as I was in Australia.*

*I have not worn spectacles for at least 4 years.*

*Due to such erroneous reporting, I will be interested to receive an explanation and hear what you propose to do to set the record straight.*

*Yours sincerely,*
*MARGARET SLADE OBE,*
*Cobham, Surrey.*

## Portakabin

*Sir,*

*Your piece on MMR ("Mean Testing", Eye 1091) made bleak reading, especially for the families (including ourselves) who now have no legal aid.*

*The families of these damaged children already faced a very stony road. What the Legal Services Commission has done is to withdraw aid on the basis that we probably (in their view) would not win. But that is to literally pre-judge the situation. The children should be allowed their day in court.*

*The LSC has claimed that its earlier decision, to fund research into the children's syndrome, was an error, and that it is now for bodies such as the Medical Research Council to finance research. In my view, their stance is naive in the extreme. The MRC isn't likely to go anywhere near the MMR/autism issue. Neither are the even less independent bodies such as the Committee on Safety of Medicines and the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency – the CSM is stuffed with people with numerous financial links with the makers of MMR – nor the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, which is a group of people dedicated to the mass-use of vaccines to stamp-out communicable diseases. Needless to say, the academic sector and the pharmaceuticals industry will keep even further away from turning up any potentially-embarrassing stones.*

*So everyone (except the children and their lawyers) can now sit back and relax. Except they can't. The latest figure for autism among 6 to 21 year olds in the US is 118,602, up from 12,222 a decade ago. Your readers can speculate as to what the equivalent (uncollected) data for autism in the UK might be. But any increase on that scale is certainly going to cost UK taxpayers vastly more than the legal aid bill was for the MMR action.*

*Treasury, take note.*

*DAVID THROWER,*
*Warrington, Cheshire.*

## Portakabin

*Sir,*

*Peter Carey "a Sydney bloke"? (Eye 1089). Well, yes, he worked in advertising in Sydney for a year or two prior to the publication of his excellent first novel* Bliss *but as is well known he was born and raised in Bacchus Marsh, Victoria and has lived for many years past in New York. I can imagine you sniggering behind your hand if an Australian publication referred to say, Gordon Brown, as a Londoner.*

*Yours etc,*
*IVOR JONES,*
*Via email.*

## Portakabin

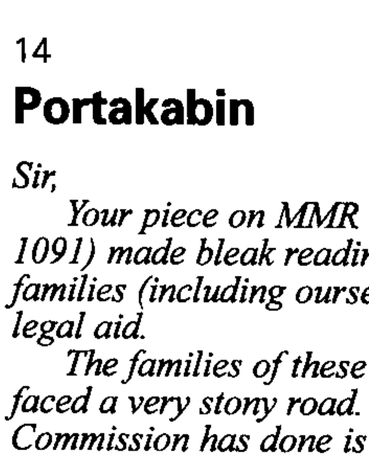
*Sir,*

*Unfortunately Bernard Greenwood (Letters, 1091) is sadly out of touch with modern forensic practice when he writes: "It is a common law right for parties in civil and criminal trials to represent themselves and judges have no discretion to prevent this." Common law right it may well be, but parliament has decreed otherwise.*

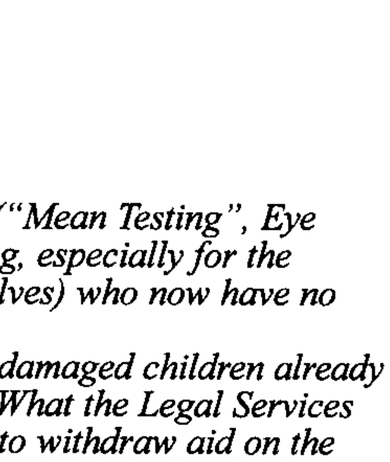
*Might I draw m'learned friend's attention to sections 34, 35 and 36 of the youth justice and criminal evidence act 1999 (addressed in Archbold 2003 ed. at paras. 8-123b et seq), which imposes serious restrictions upon a defendant's right to cross-examine certain witnesses in person. Perhaps members of the bar still have their uses?*

*I remain your obedient servant,*
*JASON HILL,*
*Barristers at Bank House, Sheffield S1 2EL.*

## Portakabin



**Hislop**



**Baker**

*Sir,*

*Much has been made of Mr Hislop's resemblance to a certain potato-headed '80s singing star, but as the enclosed photo shows, his link to the world of pop music goes back much further – twice as long, in fact, to California in the early 1960s when his first doppelganger, Bob Baker, played rock 'n' roll piano...*

*Regards,*
*DAVE PENNY,*
*Leyton.*

## Colemanballs

*£10 paid for contributions*

*"The vast majority of HIV sufferers will bend over backwards to ensure the safety of their partners."*
**COLIN DICKSON (Terrence Higgins Trust), Radio 5 Live**
(Jonathan Revett)

*"Building houses for affordable people..."*
**JOHN PRESCOTT, Radio Cumbria**
(Anthony Ray)

*"Although we are playing Russian Roulette we are obviously playing Catch 22 at the moment and it's a difficult scenario to get my head round"*
**PAUL STURROCK, Plymouth Argyle FC website**
(Andrew Pawley)

*"I can't fault Mark Palios too highly..."*
**JOHN MOTSON, BBC1**
(Paul Clare)

*"The trouble with football these days is that there are too many Madonnas in the game."*
**Caller, Radio 5 Live**
(Richard English)

## Portakabin

*Sir,*

*Surely you were a little harsh on Hammersmith & Fulham pension fund (Rotten Boroughs, Eye 1091).*

*Whatever their specific funding position, the feeling within the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) nationally is that the media have indeed given a "distorted" and "sensationalised" slant to pensions generally and to public sector schemes in particular.*

*Employer contributions are in fact rarely a significant cause of large council tax rises. For those journalists would be better looking at other factors, such as increased demands for local services.*

*A large council's LGPS contributions might typically account for less than 3 percent of its budget – so 30 percent council tax rises can hardly be laid at their door.*

*Also there is little that can be done by Hammersmith & Fulham as a "kneejerk" reaction in any case: LGPS member contribution rates are set by the government in the scheme regulations and have been fixed at 6 percent for most employees for many decades, while employer rates will be changed after the triennial valuation by the fund's actuary: the next valuation will be at April 2004 and the new employer rates won't come into effect until April 2005.*

*Funding shortfalls are normally addressed over 15 years at least, so there is little to be gained by the media "exposing" them as a dire emergency — while alarming members and enraging council taxpayers in the process.*

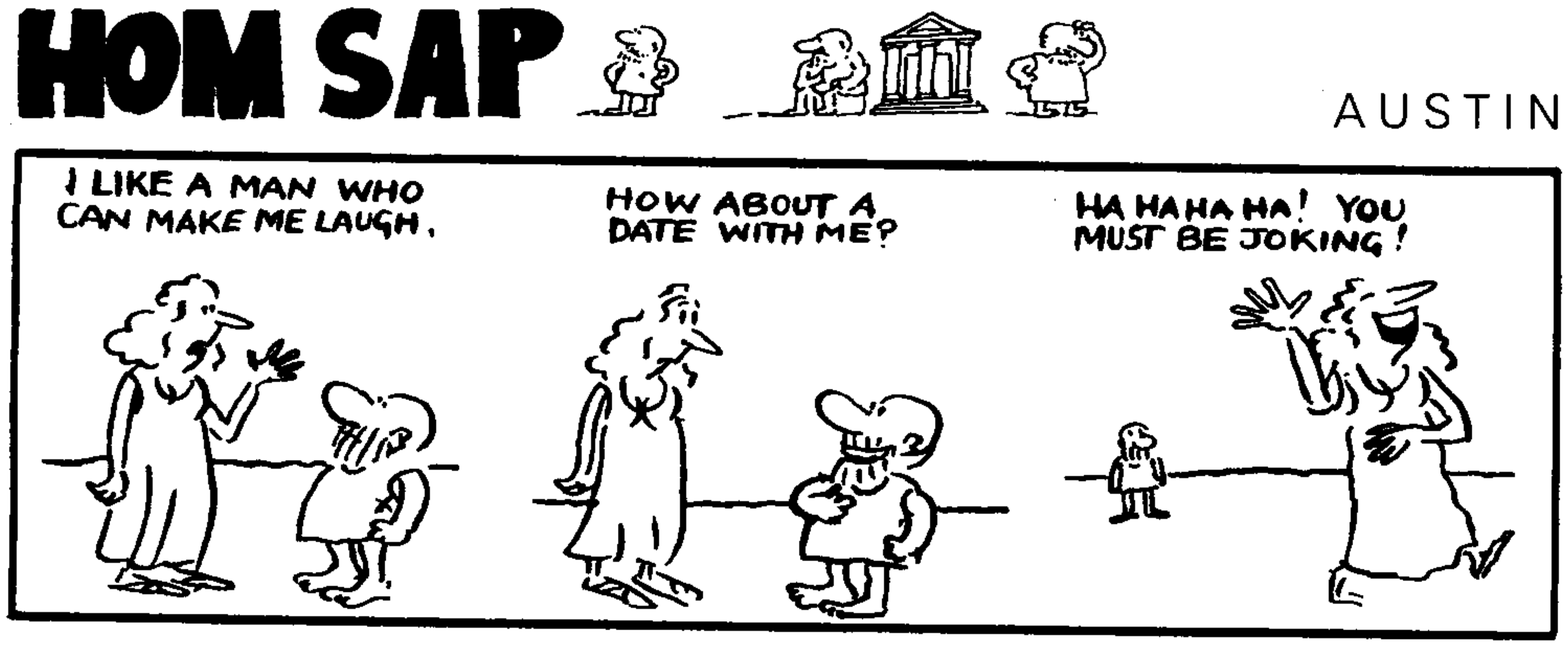
*Best wishes,*
*ALEX LEACH,*
*Shipley, West Yorks.*

## Portakabin

*Sir,*

*I am surprised to read Piloti on the subject of the "glamour" of the Waterloo Eurostar terminal. Has he visited it recently? It always did look contrived and over-complex and over-expensive, as well as providing nooks and corners for bird nesting and bird shitting. But now that its insides are draped with filthy netting to try to compensate for the crap design, it looks a dirty mess as well. This is even more apparent now the main hall has been cleaned up, and the elegant steelwork (which would not survive one decent gale according to the new, equally contrived, over-complex and over-expensive wind code) is clearly still doing its job, beautifully.*

*Regards,*
*ROLLO REID,*
*Via email.*



## Letter from **Singapore**

*from Our Own Correspondent*

**THERE are countries where the people in charge have to take responsibility for the mess they make. Singapore, where times have been particularly tough in recent years, isn't one of them.**

First came the Asian economic crisis of the late 1990s. Then the terrorist attacks of 11 September hit our tourism sector, which was given a second body blow by the outbreak of SARS. Unemployment and GDP are worsening while rates for utilities, public transport and our goods and services tax are all increasing.

Now we learn that the payments our employers make into the Central Provident Fund (CPF) – which is used to pay for our mortgages, medical bills and retirement – are also to be slashed in a bid to make Singapore more competitive for employers. Many of us wonder how we'll make ends meet.

By contrast, the fat cats in government have no such worries. In a country where the average annual salary is £8,960, prime minister Goh Chock Tong earns a healthy US$600,000 (£373,300) – more than George W. Bush or Tony Blair. Not bad in a country the size of your Isle of Wight with a population of just four million.

Many of us grumble privately that we're having to shoulder the burden of economic reforms as Singapore tries to compete with cheaper upstarts such as India and China, while our politicians live the high life. But grumbling is about all we can do. We've been ruled by the People's Action Party continuously since 1959 and are managed with an iron rod by our founding father, Lee Kuan Yew, and his entourage.

We do have opposition MPs but they are a rare and some would say foolhardy breed. J.B. Jeyaretnam, for example, the former secretary-general of the tiny opposition Workers' Party of Singapore, has had seven defamation actions brought against him by prime minister Goh since 1997, thereby bankrupting him. This meant he lost his seat in parliament and his licence to practise law.

So we tend not to grumble too loudly. And even if we were to grumble loudly, it's unlikely the Lee dynasty's grip on power might end any time soon. When Lee Kuan Yew "retired" as PM in 1990, he established a new position of senior minister for himself. This influential advisory cabinet post enables Lee to pull the strings from the sidelines. Now his handpicked successor, prime minister Goh, has announced that he is planning to retire and will soon hand power over to… Lee Hsien Loong, Lee Kuan Yew's son, whom most of us dislike. A recent unofficial online poll – "If you could vote for the next prime minister, it would it be…" – revealed that just 12 percent of us voted for Lee younger.

It also looks as though the two Lees will be in power simultaneously. We had expected Lee the elder to step down so prime minister Goh could take up the senior minister's job. But the octogenarian has other ideas. Lee, who once said he would rise from the grave to sort out any problems that might emerge in Singapore after his death, has announced that he intends to stay in public life as long as he is fit.

"I will retire from office when I am no longer able to contribute to the government," he said in an interview with the *Straits Times* recently. "You don't have to tell me. I can feel it when I am no longer making a contribution."

Should the elder Lee remain senior minister while his son is prime minister, between them they would occupy the two top government posts in one of the richest nations in Southeast Asia. To tighten the Lee family's stranglehold further, Lee junior's wife, Ho Ching, is head of Temasek Holdings, a state investment firm that controls many of our leading companies such as Singapore Airlines and Singapore Telecommunications (SingTel). Talk about keeping it in the family.

# FUNNY OLD WORLD

COMPILED BY **VICTOR LEWIS-SMITH**

● "Solomon is a fire and brimstone preacher," Dale Doell told reporters in Medicine Hat, Alberta, "and I can't believe he's gone. He preaches a full-scale sermon out of the Word of God, just like John the Baptist, and can learn new scripture in a single day. He wasn't just a parrot, he was an uplifting spiritual presence in this house, and I'm praying night and day for his safe return."

Doell was speaking after Solomon, his African grey parrot, had escaped while having his photograph taken in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. "I am a born-again Christian, and Solomon was a hatched-again Christian. He had a vocabulary of over two thousand, six hundred words, and could preach a passionate evangelical Christian message, promising salvation to those who repent, and eternal damnation to unbelievers. I was getting him ready to speak to over a thousand people at a

WHO'S A HATCHED CHRISTIAN WHO'S A HATCHED CHRISTIAN WHO'S A HATCH CHRIS
PRETTY -AGAIN THEN? PRETTY -AGAIN THEN? PRETTY -AGAIN THEN?
Phillip Thompson

Christian-themed jamboree in Caroline this summer, and he was scheduled to make his television debut in the autumn, but all that's now been put on hold. I'm praying that he simply felt the need to spend forty days in the Wilderness, like our Lord Jesus, and will come back afterwards. I've heard that a radio station in the town of Rocky Mountain House has recently broadcast a message about a parrot being found, so I'm hoping that it's Solomon. I'm so encouraged, because the world needs to hear his message." *(Red Deer Advocate, 20/9/03. Spotter: Wallace Brown)*

— ● —

● *"If there's anyone who knows what shit looks like, then surely it's me," plumber Murray Norris told reporters gathered outside his house in Huia, near Wellington, "and that's what it looks like. Don't you agree? I came home on Friday evening and found this evil-smelling brown muck splattered all over my roof and west wall. I immediately guessed that it came from an aircraft toilet, so I complained to the Civil Aviation Authority. But they said it wasn't them, and blamed the mess on a bird. Yet some of the patches are almost three metres wide, so if a bird caused this mess, it's the biggest bird on the planet and it's got a hell of a serious diarrhoea problem."*

*Norris was one of several residents in New Zealand's Takapu Valley whose houses have been covered in foul-smelling brown muck in recent weeks. But CAA spokesman Bill Sommer denied that a malfunctioning aircraft toilet could have been to blame. "All jetliner toilets use a tell-tale blue chemical, but laboratory analysis of the substances taken from the walls and windows of the houses reveals no trace of it. So we think that it must have been caused by a bird. Or possibly several birds."*

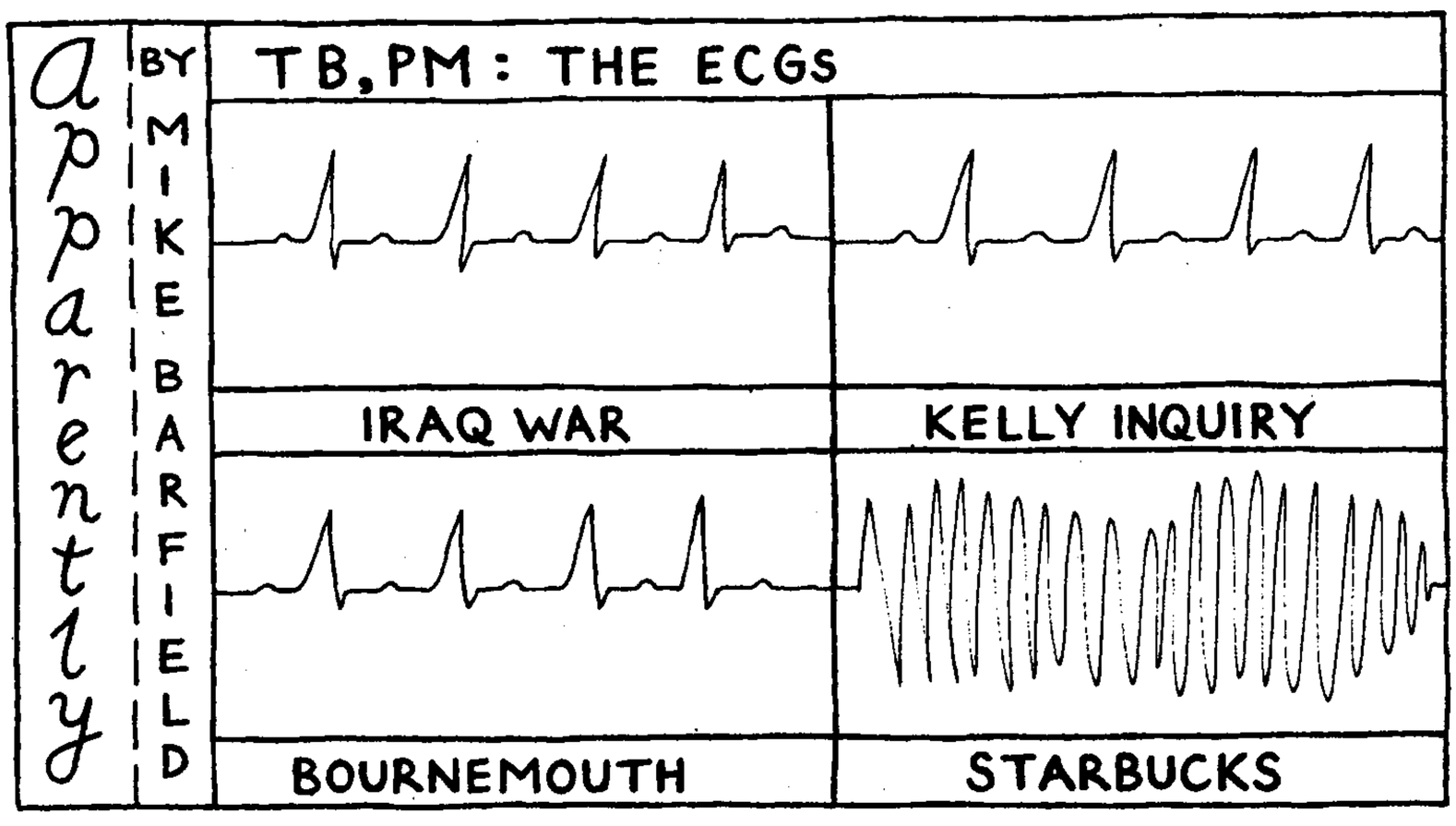
*Complaints about human faeces falling from the sky have increased worldwide in recent years, especially in areas beneath flight paths. "It could be very risky," Guy Dansie of the Central Utah Public Health Department stated after a similar incident in Sevier County, "because this faecal matter often contains coliform bacteria, including E coli. It's almost impossible to prove precisely where it comes from, but it's falling from the sky, and there's only one major source of human faeces up there that I know of. Can you think of another?"* (Fly South [Zambia], 26/9/03 and New Zealand Herald 29/9/03. Spotter: Jonathan Bryce)

— ● —

● "The female rules should apply to me, because my body is like that of a woman," Phruts Phungsai told referees at The King's Cup elephant polo tournament, held in Hua Hin, Thailand. "I have small hands, a small body, and not much muscle. And I look like a woman, so why can't I use two hands like a woman?"

Phruts was arguing that his/her transsexual Screwless Tuskers team, consisting entirely of ladyboys (known locally as "katoeys"), should be governed by female rules, rather than male ones. "Men are strong, so they have to clasp the mallet in one hand, but women are allowed to use both hands. We're adding a touch of exoticism to this tournament, and the organisers should realise that we're girls, in a way, and let us use both hands."

Despite a ruling in their favour, the Screwless Tuskers were defeated by an Australian team, but Phruts was unconcerned. "It felt very good out there. I broke a couple of fingernails, but the important thing for us is not how well we play, but how good we look. We looked good, so we'll all be back next year." *(Taipei Times, 22/9/03. Spotter: Julian Shea)*



# ST ALBION PARISH NEWS

*Incumbent: Rev. A.R.P. Blair MA (Oxon)*

*Hullo*

And I know there's only one thing you want to know this week – how am I?

The answer, you'll be delighted to hear, is that your vicar is absolutely fine! In fact, I've never felt better!

The doctors all say that they've never seen a healthier man admitted to casualty with heart problems!

That's how fit I am! In fact, as one of the paramedics said as he carried me into the ambulance, "Vicar, if I was in as great shape as you are, I'd be a very happy man!"

Not that it wouldn't be a surprise if someone under as much pressure as I have been didn't have a few heart problems!

Let's face it, for the past seven years, since I took over at St Albions's, I've had just about the most gruelling workload any vicar can ever have faced.

Hey, I'm not complaining! Someone's got to do the work around here! And it's not going to be certain other people I could name, who seem to be rather too busy worrying about all their homes, or their new baby, or trying to get everyone in the parish to walk around with an ID card (and probably in braille too!).

No, I don't regret in any way that I am a 24/7 'rolling' vicar! And in case any of you have forgotten, here are just some of the things I've managed to achieve!

Firstly, I've rid the world of Satan, with the help of my good friend the Rev. Dubya, of the Church of the Latter Day Morons.

Secondly, I have rebuilt our Mission to Northern Ireland which has been a huge success (and the fact that unfortunately it was burned down again immediately, just gives us the opportunity to rebuild it yet again, even stronger and better than before!).

As for my other achievements, they are too many to mention, such as setting new targets for ridding St Albion's of chewing gum on the pavements (not clever of funny!); sacking Mr Cook as our church organist after his disgraceful behaviour in the organ loft with Gaynor (not something we'll be reading about in his diaries, I expect!); and of course the huge success of our Millennium Tent project (which, in spite of my repeated requests to the contrary, is STILL being used as a receptacle for unwanted PCs, fridges, stereos and dead pets).

But enough of my achievements! I am only mentioning them at all to help you realise just what an amazing strain running this parish is, and how any normal man would be in his grave by now with the colossal pressures I have to live under,

hour by hour, day by day, week by week, trying to make your parish a better and happier place to live in!

So it's hardly surprising that for a few minutes last week the medics pronounced me as technically 'dead'.

But when I saw the 'white light', I heard a heavenly voice saying "Hey, look Tony, you can't come up here yet! You've still plenty of work to do back there on earth!"

And then I woke up and, do you know, I felt 100 percent better than I have ever felt in my entire life.

So let's not have any more of this silly chatter that I am just looking for an excuse to retire, and to hand over the parish to someone else!

No way José (or indeed Gordon, for that matter!).

I'm here to stay, OK? As it says in that wonderfully inspiring old story of the hard-working Lazarus, "and, lo, he rose up from his death bed, much healthier than before. And all the world was amazed!" *(St Paul's Letter to the Doctor).*

Yours as 'fit as a fiddle'

Tony

## Remembrance Sunday

This year we shall be remembering all those who nearly laid down their lives in the service of their country, but are now feeling much better, thank you very much! The Roll Call of Honour (one name) will be read out by a representative of the St Albion's Scout Troop (L.Blair).

## THANK YOU!

### From the Acting Editor Mr Mandelson

**As you all know I turned 50 last week and I was extremely grateful that not a single person sought to draw attention to the fact by sending me a card or a present.**

**Thank you all very much and I would just like to remind you that I do know where you all live.**
**P.M.**

## Coffee Morning

The Vicar's wife wishes it to be known that, on the medical advice of Mrs Caplin, all parish coffee mornings have been cancelled indefinitely. On Sunday mornings, the normal coffee and biscuits after the service will be replaced by health-giving tisanes from the Caplin Collection, including ragwort, digitalis (and belladonna for our treasurer, Mr Brown!). C.B.

## Visit of Reverend Dubya

We are very pleased to announce that Rev Dubya Bush of the Church of the Latter Day Morons will be honouring the parish with a three day "pray-in" on November 19.

I want you to put this important date in your diaries and I hope that all of you who can will be there to give Rev Dubya a St Albion's style welcome that he will never forget. And by that I don't mean Miss Short, Mr Cook and Mr Livingstone heading a protest parade with banners saying "Killer Bush is Satan" and other unhelpful slogans.

I plan to show the Rev Dubya some of the good things that are happening here such as the Millennium Tent, the cardboard model of the new foundation hospital etc etc.

Hope to see you there! T.B.

## EXCOMMUNICATION

At a specially convened meeting of the PCC the Vicar solemnly proclaimed that Mr George Galloway was a heretic and blasphemer who would henceforth be cast into outer darkness "for taking the name of the Vicar in vain".

*T.B. writes: Nobody must speak to him ever again*

DAILY Moron
Friday October 31 2003

# NEW DIANA LETTER SENSATION

**AN amazing letter from Princess Diana to royal butler Paul Burrell is published exclusively by the Daily Moron today.**

It proves not only that Diana predicted a conspiracy to murder her butler but that she was a devoted reader of the Daily Moron and (contd. p.2-94)

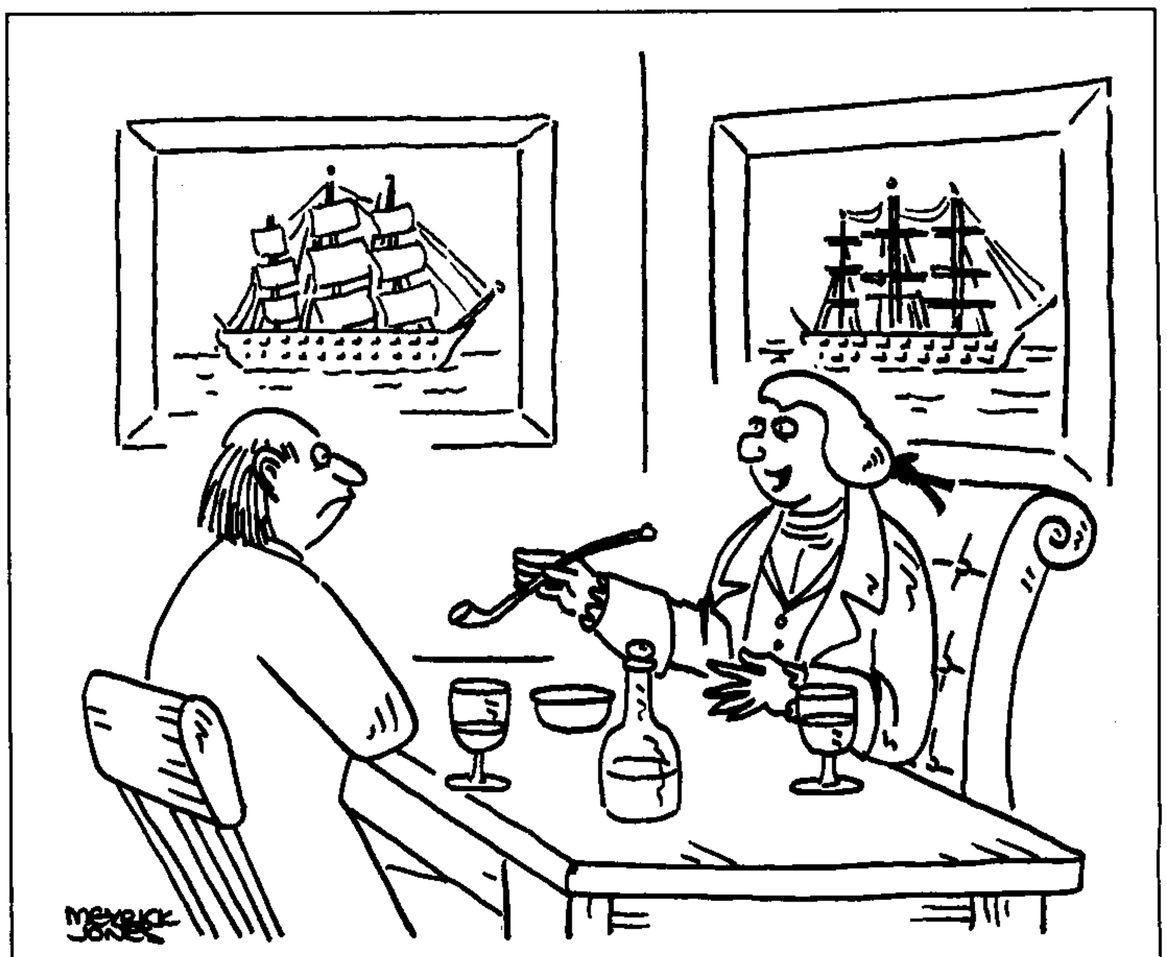
## That letter

The Mirror is a great paper and Piers Moron is honestly really dishy!!

Yah!! After they have fixed my brakes so I die in a car accident I hope you will dish the dirt in the Daily Moron and fill your boots

Lots of love
Diana XX

P.S. After I die take anything you want and hide it under your bed.



*"You say slave trader – I say investor in people"*

# CAMPBELL'S NEW CAREER MOVE

by our After Dinner Correspondent **Roy Al Toast**

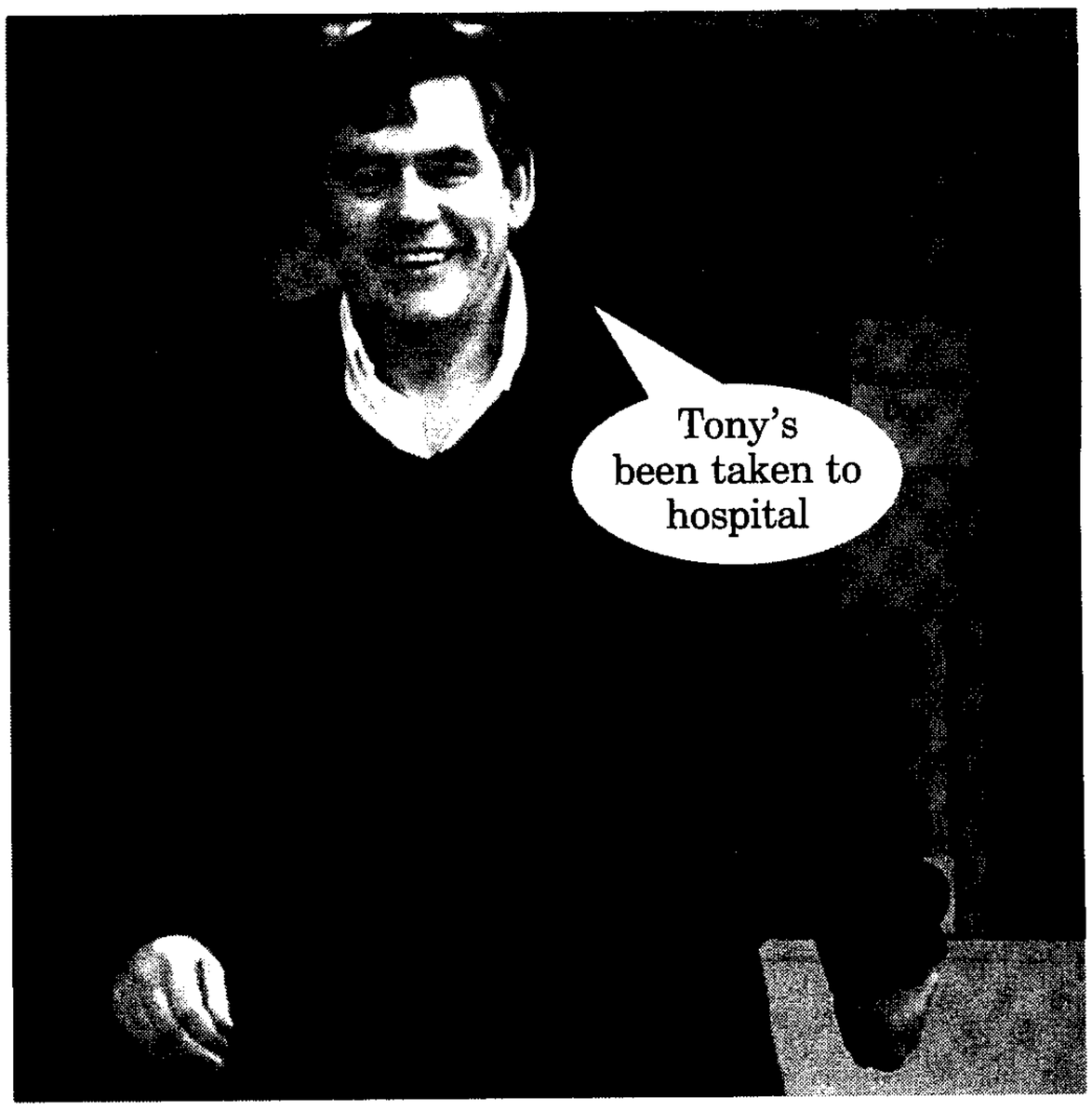
FORMER Blair Communications Director Alastair Campbell is to pursue a new career as an after-dinner speaker, joining such illustrious names as TV's Angus Deayton and former Prime Minister and sexual athlete John Major. (*Reuters*)

### WHAT YOU WILL HEAR
### That Campbell speech in full

My Lords, Ladies and F***ing Gentlemen.

A f***ing funny thing happened to me on my way here (*cont'd for 94 f***ing minutes*).

# BROWN'S DAY OF JOY



*"I see you missed your last appointment. I'm afraid we take that rather seriously these days"*

# OUTRAGE AS BUTLER SELLS STORY

by our Valet Staff **P.G. Woofter**

THE BUTLER at the centre of a 'tell-all book' was branded a disgrace yesterday by his former employer, Mr Bertie Wooster, who was depicted in the best-selling book *What-Ho Jeeves!* as an upper-class twit incapable of forming attachments with women and terrified of his elderly relatives.

Said Bertie Windsor, "It's a pretty poor show when a chap can't grow a moustache or buy a hat without his bally butler telling the whole world all about it."

Continued Mr Windsor, "I mean, I'm made to look a complete nincompoop who can't even choose his own socks let alone a wife without the assistance of Jeeves." When asked for a comment Jeeves remarked, "Very good, Sir."

**Tomorrow:** *The night that Mr Wooster stole a silver cow creamer and I had to cover it all up.*

# MAN'S WIFE HAS BABY

**by Our Entire Staff**

**A MAN'S wife yesterday gave birth to a baby. The man was very happy.**

***(Exclusive to all newspapers)***

**Commander Jauch added: "Having painted a rosy picture, we must be cautious. While we tend to focus on street crime and burglary, anti-social behaviour is something that traditionally police have been good at doing.**

*Wandsworth Guardian*

# POETRY CORNER

**In Memoriam**
***This Is Your Life***

So. Farewell
Then *This Is*
*Your Life* –
The once-popular
TV programme
Featuring Eamonn
Andrews and his famous
"Red Book" (and,
More latterly,
Michael Aspel).

"X" or "Y" –
"This Is
Your Life".
That was your
Catchphrase.

Yes. That was
Your life.
Not that you had
Much life
In you
Anyway.

E.J. Thribb (17½)
(Never invited on)

# What books are on my bedside table

by Phil Space

## SILLY

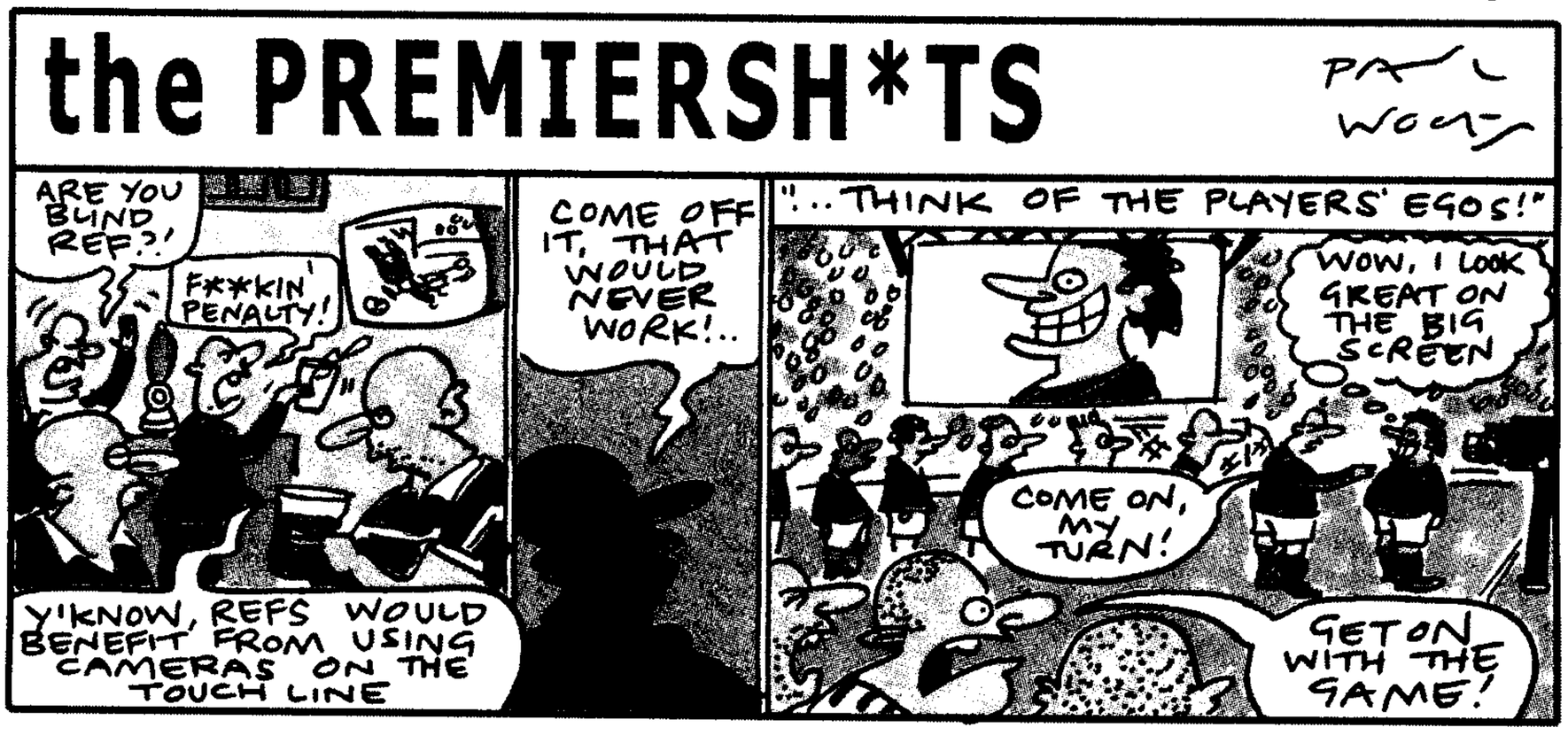
FURTHER adventures with the Big Yawn by his wife who is a professional psychophant (surely 'therapist'? Ed)

## CRIPES!

THE COLLECTED writings of the Editor of the Beano, Boris the Menace. Includes his views on Europe ('Cripes!'), the future of the Conservative Party ('Cripes!'), and why he is happy to publish Taki ('Crap!') (surely 'Cripes'? Ed.)

## ZZZZZ

THE COMPLETE Memoirs of Douglas Hurd.


the PREMIERSH*TS
PAUL WOOLEY
ARE YOU BLIND REF?!
F**KIN' PENALTY!
Y'KNOW, REFS WOULD BENEFIT FROM USING CAMERAS ON THE TOUCH LINE
COME OFF IT, THAT WOULD NEVER WORK!..
"..THINK OF THE PLAYERS' EGOS!"
WOW, I LOOK GREAT ON THE BIG SCREEN
COME ON, MY TURN!
GET ON WITH THE GAME!

# Train delays could last a decade, says Network Rail

*Daily Mail*

**Police have no fresh leads in their investigation into a drowning at the Strawberry Park Hot Springs around midnight Saturday.**

**"Nothing new has surfaced," Routt County Undersheriff Dan Taylor said.**

*Steamboat Today, Colarado*

# HEIR OF SORROWS

## by Dame Sylvie Krin

(long-listed 78th for this year's Man Booker Prize)

*THE STORY SO FAR: Charles's relationship with Camilla is slowly winning acceptance from the British people, much to Charles's pleasure.*

*Now read on..*

CHARLES sat in the breakfast room at Highgrove as the October sunshine flooded in through the elegant neo-Georgian windows, designed by his friend Sir Wogan Terry.

It had truly been an Indian Summer to remember. And was it too much to hope for that he too could now be granted an Indian Summer in his own life?

With a confidence he hadn't felt for years, he stirred a spoonful of organic sweetener into his cup of Lapdancer Souchong breakfast tea, and added a dash of skimmed milk from the prize-winning Aberdeen Angus Ogilvy dairy herd that he could see grazing on their GM-free pastures in the park outside.

Yes, perhaps after all things were at last looking up. What was it his old friend and mentor Sir Laurens van der Post used to say on their long walks through the Kalahari Krishna game reserve? "There'll be bluebirds over the white cliffs of Dover, tomorrow just you wait and see..."?

How very true that was, he mused.

But suddenly his reverie was broken by a loud thump as a hefty pile of newspapers was roughly slammed down on the table in front of him, spilling the pot of Duchy Original Extra-Thick Royal Crab Apple Jelly all over his Trescothick and Vaughan velvet non-smoking jacket.

"Er, Camilla, old thing – you're up! Something wrong?"

"Yes, there bloody well is, Charles!" The world's most famous consort could barely contain her rage as she held out a selection of Britain's most avidly read tabloid newspapers a few inches from his nose.

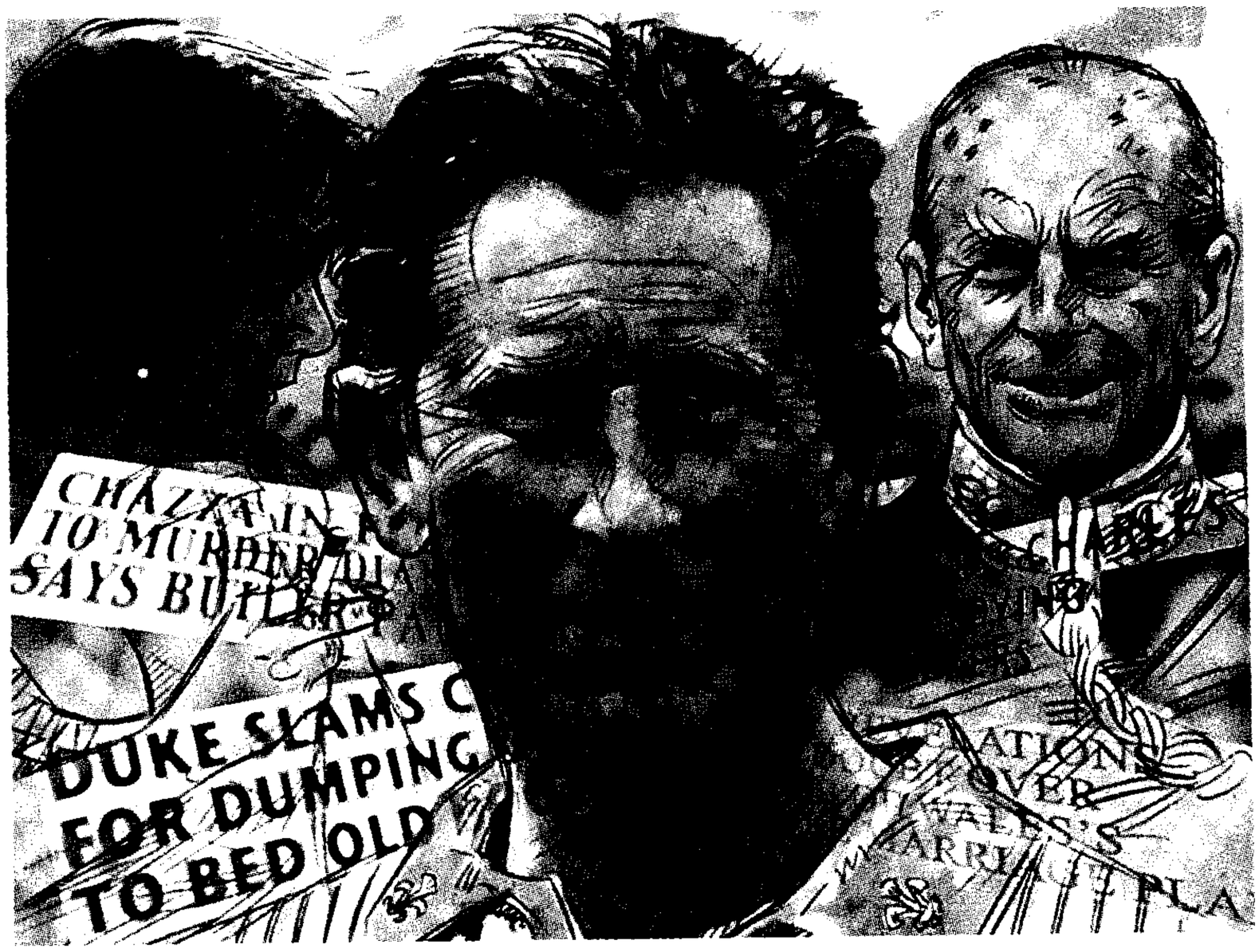
The headlines spoke for themselves.

'CHAZZA IN PLOT TO MURDER DIANA, SAYS BUTLER PAUL!' screamed one.

'HEARTLESS CHARLES DROVE LOVING DI BONKERS!' shouted another.

'ROYAL REVELATIONS CAST DOUBT OVER PRINCE OF WALES'S FUTURE MARRIAGE PLANS' yelled a thoughtful front-page editorial in the *Financial Times.*

But Camilla saved the worst of these hurtful headlines until last – 'DUKE SLAMS CHARLES FOR DUMPING DISHY DI TO BED OLD BOOT CAMILLA!'




"What are you going to do about this one, Charles?" she seethed.

There was an ominous silence as he began to take in the full horror of what must have happened.

That bloody butler of Diana's... a new book... letters from everyone... this was the worst nightmare yet... even his father was betraying him all over the pages of the *Daily Thingie* and the *Whatsit.*

Camilla angrily lit up a cigarette and blew a thick cloud of noxious smoke directly into her partner's face – something she knew he detested more than anything in the world.

"I demand an apology to be printed on the front page of every newspaper in the land!" she stormed.

"Your father has publicly insulted me in the most hurtful possible way."

"But... er... you know... it was only a very private letter, written to Diana. And it's hardly his fault if, you know..."

But his outraged paramour was in no mood to listen to his faltering remonstrations.

"Look what it says here. According to your beastly, big-mouthed father, you must have been off your trolley to hitch yourself up with a woman who makes the rear end of an average London bus look like an attractive proposition."

Charles cringed at the only too familiar nautical bluntness with which his father had made his position clear.

"You're a bloody fool, Charles!" How often had he heard those words ringing down the years...

"YOU'RE a bloody fool, Charles! What do you mean – 'an apology'?" The gruff bark of the Duke of Edinburgh boomed down the line, just as it had once done from the quarterdeck of HMS Genghis Khan, prompting several terrified midshipmen to throw themselves overboard into the frozen Atlantic wastes.

Charles was beginning to regret that he had submitted to his mistress's imperious demands rather than following his instinct to let sleeping dogs – or, indeed, dukes – lie, and let the whole thing kind of blow over.

"The person who would be apologising, Charles, is *you,* for making such a total pig's ear of your whole bloody life. Do you realise your mother'll have to rule for another 50 years now, thanks to your shenanigans with Old Bootface..."

As his father continued his admonition in similar vein for some hours, Charles found his thoughts beginning to wander.

He saw in his mind his father in the driving seat of one of his carriage-thingies, trotting quietly along with his friend the 59th Duke of Onslow, when... oh no... what's happening? ... the horses seem to be bolting and the brakes seem to have failed... and what's that? A white Fiat Uno coming round the corner...

*(To be continued)*

*© Sylvietrash Productions, published by Penguin Books, 2003.*

# AN APOLOGY Northern Ireland

**THIS MORNING, in common with all other newspapers, we may unwittingly have predicted that today was the day when the troubles in Northern Ireland would finally come to an end, and Mr Blair would be going to Belfast to announce the dawn of a new age of peace and prosperity, when Unionists and Republicans would be openly embracing one another with tears of joy, and old-age terrorists (surely 'pensioners'? Ed.) would be dancing in the streets. Headlines such as '1000 Years of Bloodshed Come To An End', 'Peacemaker Tony's Greatest Triumph' and 'Eire We Go, Eire We Go' may have given the impression that we in some way believed 10 Downing Street when they last night handed us a press release suggesting all the above headlines.**

**We now realise, in the light of what actually happened, that there was never the slightest chance that Mr David Trimble and Mr Gerry Adams would agree in any way about anything other than to continue the same old hopeless stalemate that has characterised the politics of Northern Ireland for as along as anyone can remember.**

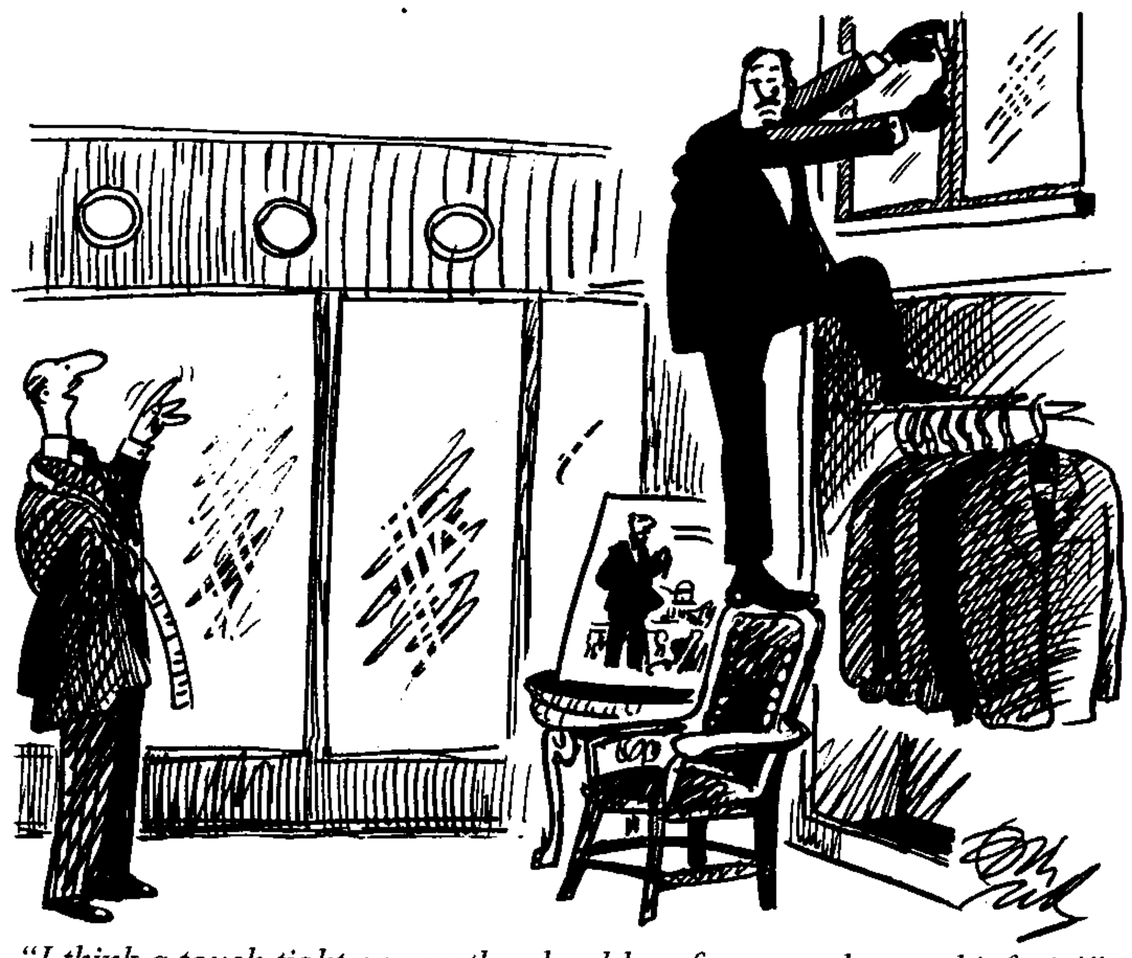
**We apologise for any confusion that this may have caused to our readers, and any disappointment that they may have suffered as a result of believing the nonsense that we print on the instructions of 10 Downing Street.**

## Gordon's Baby

You choose the name! Simply pick which you think is the most appropriate and ring Eye Brown Baby Line 0800- 23456 (calls charged at £10 per minute. Length of average call 20 minutes)

- ☐ Nye
- ☐ Keir
- ☐ Clement
- ☐ Ramsay

- ☐ Herbert Morrison
- ☐ Chuter Ede
- ☐ John Smith
- ☐ NOT TONY



*"I think a touch tight across the shoulders for a gentlemen thief, sir!"*

# KNACKER FURY AT BBC RACISM FILM

by our Police Staff **Lunchtime O'Blues**

INSPECTOR KNACKER, Assistant Deputy Chief Inspector of the Neasden Police Force, condemned the five police recruits who were shown making racist remarks in a BBC undercover investigation yesterday.

"These men have behaved in an unforgivable way. There are always some black sheep in any family, which is why we are getting rid of them, the black bastards."

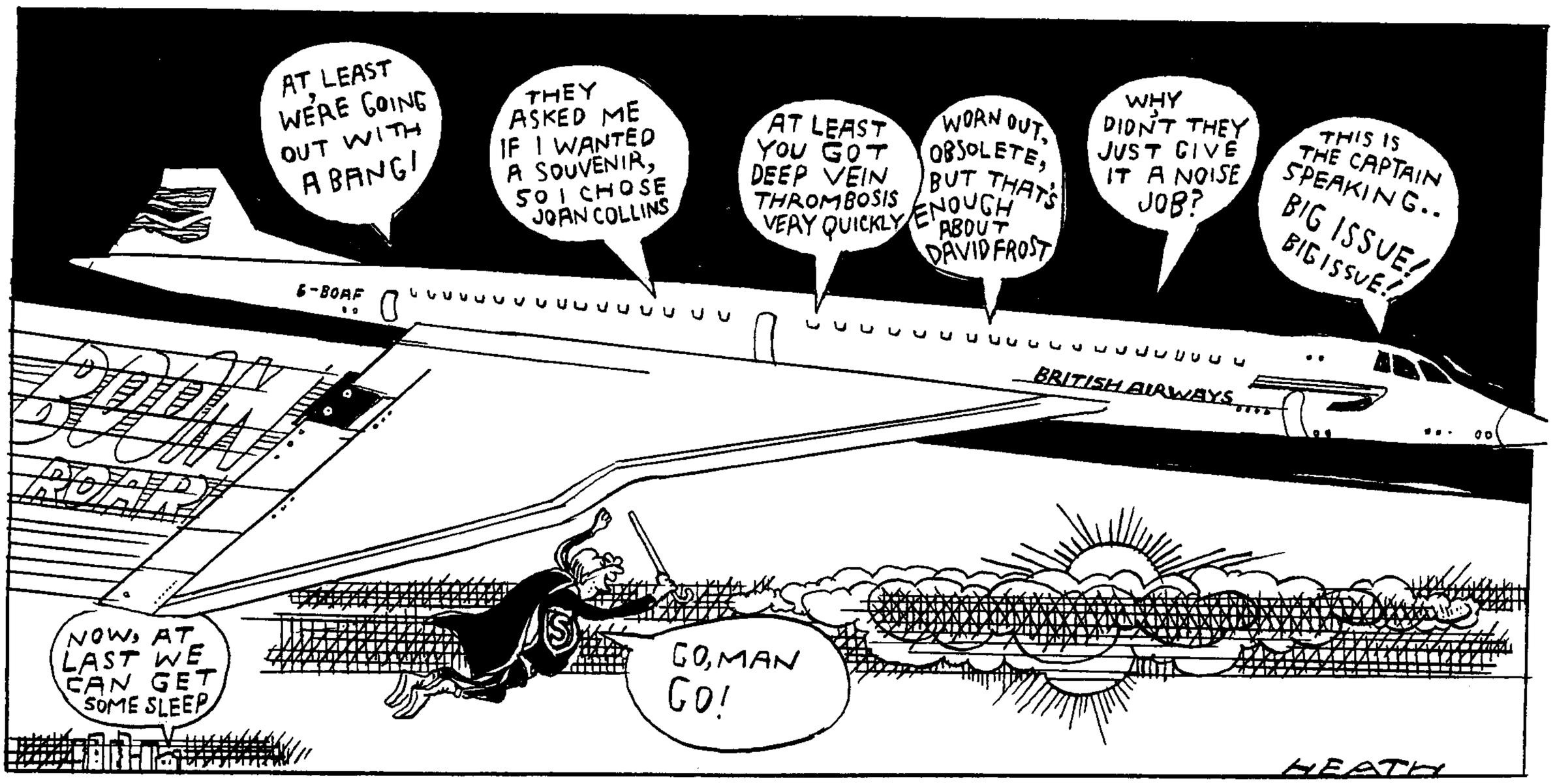
## Late News

INSPECTOR Knacker is retiring from the force as of this minute. A spokesman said, "This is a black day for the police and we don't want those sort of days around here."

## Even Later News

A POLICE spokesman is also retiring from his position with immediate effect. When asked for a statement his replacement replied, "No blacks, I mean comment."

*(That's enough of this piece. Ed.)*


AT LEAST WE'RE GOING OUT WITH A BANG!
THEY ASKED ME IF I WANTED A SOUVENIR, SO I CHOSE JOAN COLLINS
AT LEAST YOU GOT DEEP VEIN THROMBOSIS VERY QUICKLY
WORN OUT, OBSOLETE, BUT THAT'S ENOUGH ABOUT DAVID FROST
WHY DIDN'T THEY JUST GIVE IT A NOISE JOB?
THIS IS THE CAPTAIN SPEAKING.. BIG ISSUE! BIG ISSUE!
G-BOAF
BRITISH AIRWAYS
NOW, AT LAST WE CAN GET SOME SLEEP
GO, MAN GO!
HEATH

# THOSE TORY LEADERSHIP CANDIDATES IN FULL

**THINGUMMY, 52**, is seen as the favourite to take over from IDS. Able and charismatic, Thingummy comes from the centre of the party and his name is synonymous with new Conservative thinking.

**WHATSISNAME, 53,** is the clear choice of the constituency associations. Charismatic and able, Whatsisname is widely seen as a leader from the centre ground. His name is synonymous with new-style traditional Tory values.

**WHOHE, 51,** is the dark horse of the leadership race who could surprise many pundits by rallying the traditional central wing of the party with his able, charismatic brand of *(that's enough men we've never heard of. Ed.)*

*"Hello... here come the Red Arrows"*

# A Doctor Writes

## Supraventricular Tachycardia

AS A DOCTOR I am often asked "Doctor, would you write us 2,000 words on Tony Blair by lunchtime?" The simple answer is "Yes, of course. How much money are you offering?"

What happens is that the doctor's pulse begins to race at the thought of the cash, causing an outbreak of palpitations and a rush of blood to the head. This may feel like a heart attack. The doctor, however, then immediately uses an electronic device known as "Google" which quickly calms him down by downloading all the medical information he needs to solve his article problem.

After a short rest, the doctor is ready to write another piece about John Smith, Michael Heseltine, Winston Churchill or anyone else in the news with a medical condition.

If you are worried about not making money out of *Supraventricular Tachycardia*, then you should consult an editor at once.

© A Doctor

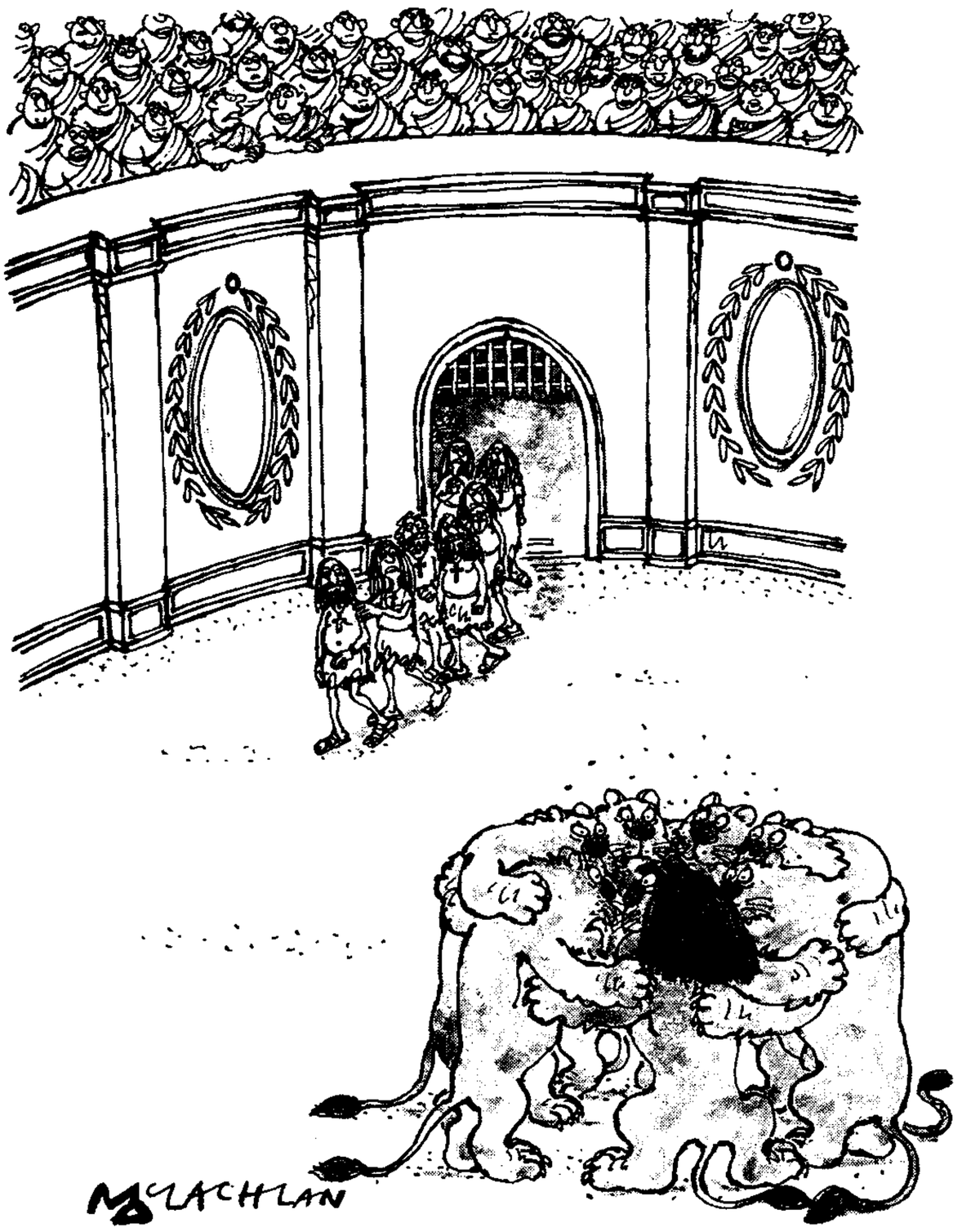
# A Piece By Me

by **Martin Newboy**, the new editor of the Daily Telegraph in succession to TV's Charles Moore

WHEN I was a junior reporter on the Saskatchewan Catholic Gazette, I had the great privilege of meeting the Archdeacon of Moose Jaw, who gave me an exclusive interview. "Mark my words," he said, "if the CofE starts appointing gay vicars, there could be trouble." Luckily it doesn't happen in our church. So you see I know all about this religious stuff, schisms and all that, which is why I have commissioned myself to write this very important piece in the space normally occupied by Barbara Amiel. *(By the way, have you noticed that her name is an anagram of 'Am a real rabbi'?)*

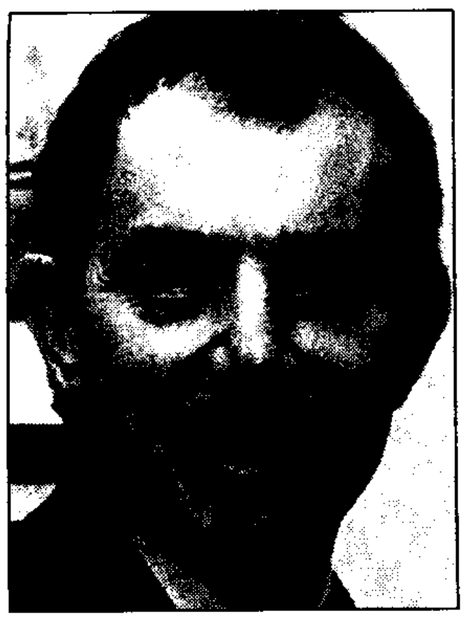
Another time I met another very famous Catholic, called Lord Black. He was very kind and offered me a job as editor of the Daily Telegraph, which is why I have asked myself to give my views on the Church of England, in the space normally occupied by *(I've done that bit, Ed.)*.

*"This huddle business before the start is a new thing isn't it?"*




## DAILY MAIL – SHOCK REPORT

# How Tony Blair has aged



**Blair in 1997**

**Blair yesterday**

## MODERN NURSERY RHYMES

Tom, Tom, the burglar's son,
Mugged a bloke and away he run.
The cops gave chase,
Took him down their place,
Where he topped himself with
a trainer lace.

# MILLIONS WEEP AS COUGHCORDE IS GROUNDED

by Phil Aerospace

**ONE of the great white hopes of British uselessness Iain Duncan Cough was finally laid to rest today .**

With his sleek bald head Iain Duncan Cough had been hailed as one of the great British inventions.

But after two years of trials the backroom boffins finally admitted defeat and acknowledged that Cough would never get off the ground.

### Boom & Bust

One expert who tried desperately to get him to take off said: "The problem was the noise. He didn't make any at all. Nobody was woken up."

*"I'm an irregular kind of guy..."*

## FOREIGN PRESS ROUND-UP

### Holy Land

THE *Sodom Times* (incorporating the *Gomorrah Weekly Argus*) gives front page coverage to the enthronement of Sodom's bishop, the Very Rev. Gene Robinson. "This is a great day for the Church and a great day for Sodom," says the paper. But the accompanying weather forecast warns Sodomites of "unseasonal outbreaks of fire and brimstone over many parts of the area".

### Fairyland

THE *Mirror Mirror On The Wall* has an exclusive about the People's Princess Snow White and her relations with "a succession of seven men of restricted growth". The paper also claims that "evil forces" were plotting to assassinate her.

### Dreamland

THE *Bedtime Storygraph* has a beautiful picture of Iain Duncan Smith and says he will become Prime Minister and live happily ever after.

### Iraqland

THE *Baghdad Times* reports that the British forces have failed to win the peace in Ireland where there are still "pockets of resistance". The paper also claims that clerics from the two rival sects, including the fanatical Ian Paisley (96) continue to foment unrest among their followers.

*"Well I think it makes me look fat!"*

## NEW ITV SCHEDULE

**When Shareholders Attack** 9.00 pm

SHOCKING new CCTV footage of Carlton chief executive Michael Green being ambushed in bright daylight by vicious institutional City investors.

**Shareholders From Hell**
10.00 pm

SHOCKING footage of how Michael Green's comfortable life was turned on its head when a group of rowdy City investors moved into his company.

● **Eye Rating** A right turn-off

**AGONY AND ECSTASY** SEX WITH DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD AND HANNAH BETTS
*The Times*


# YES IT'S KABOLLOX!

It's the new religion that all the top celebrities are converting to!

★ You too could join Madonna, Stella McCartney, Jerry Hall and lots of other famous people by following the simple tenets of this deeply spiritual, centuries old, mystic, faith-style belief.

**1. Open your heart**
**2. Open your mind**
**3. Open your wallet**

★ You will immediately feel spiritually richer and we will feel just richer.

***Send all your cash now to Kabollox, The Institute for Advanced Enrichment, Box 79, The Trading Estate, Bracknell and in return you will gain the secrets of the universe and a healing bracelet made of genuine string.***

***Says Madonna, "People say it's rubbish. But it's not – it's Kabollox."***

# DIARY

## ROBERT HUGHES'S 6 GREATEST ARTISTS OF ALL TIME

**CHARDIN:** At the tender age of 15, I was as horny as a blue-arsed fly and bursting out of my 33% cotton underpants, bought by my mother in packs of three at a prestigious Melbourne department store. And then I set eyes on a still life by Chardin. At fifteen, to find this voice – so finely wrought and yet so raw, public and yet strangely private – speaking to me with such insistence and urgency from a remote time and a country I'd never been to, of whose language I spoke not a word, was no small thing.

It was an orange on which I looked that precious dew-dropped morn, and it was instantly recognisable as such. But anyone who thinks it was just an orange knows nothing, neither of oranges nor Chardin. Indeed, such a total ignoramus would be the kind of slimebag who would rate Corot above Courbet, or who would have the sheer bloody nerve to suggest that Churchill was a greater war leader than Chamberlain, just as some right-wing loonies in America still believe in the existence of God, a tomfool creed that I shed along with my short trousers in adolescence, an awakening enlightenment for which I count myself grateful.

**GOYA:** It would, perforce, be an utter and outright nerd who dared to suggest that the twentieth century, that atrocious epoch of failed dreams and trumphant death, did not have one or two consolations of which, I would modestly attest, I am not the least.

But though the eighteenth century gave birth to its fair share of gormless lickspittles and sundry jerks (the spineless fat-arsed creep Reynolds, the berk Burke) it also had the good fortune to deliver Francisco Goya, not only a truly extraordinary artist but – and I say this with all possible urgency not to say another word like urgency – an artist extraordinaire.

It was to Goya's great good fortune that, some two and a half centuries after the year appertaining to his birth, he at last found his true and natural biographer, namely myself. He was, I suspect, drawn to me not only for my depth but also for my width. And anyone who could presume to suggest Goya was in any way disappointed with his biographer must be a bigger moron than even his worst enemy – and believe me, son, you have a great many of that species – could possibly imagine.

**MONET:** There isn't any evidence that Monet was interested in water-lilies, as lacklustre critics have suggested in the past. Far from it. Like Alan Titchmarsh in the present day, the guy was infinitely more interested in the herbaceous border, so colourful yet so verdant, and rightly so. Agreed, he painted those soppy and sopping oblong flowers as they jammed up his ponds, but it can't possibly have been because he saw any worth in the things. Believe me, he was no fool. So why did he bother with those damned water lilies? An informed guess tells me they reminded him of the voluptuous arse of a female aborigine – only in these politically-correct times the spineless and the lily-livered are happy to bow to the demands of the thought police and cover up this fact.

**VELAZQUEZ:** The guy was one of the most dedicated snobs that ever touched a brush. But that should not take anything away from his quite magnificent achievement. Looking at a canvas by Velazquez, I am literally overcome by the knowledge that here is an artist about whom no words of mine could pay tribute either adequate or inadequate. So how to face up to the challenge and put in words the effect this truly incomparable painter has on those to whom he not only speaks but paints?

Like most if not all of Velazquez's incomparable paintings, I am well hung, and like every red-blooded male I have always found the dwarf pictured near the front of the painting in Las Meninas powerfully erotic. Put it like this. It is not hard to imagine pulling off her unexceptional gown and giving her a powerful seeing-to, possibly in the bedchamber of her mistress, and, ideally, in the energetic company of the gagging-for-it Rokeby Venus (to my mind infinitely sexier than our own contemporary, Pamela Anderson, who, though commendably curvaceous, albeit in a manner that might strike the connoisseur as a little too glaringly obvious and upfront, has nevertheless the undeniable qualities of generous fleshiness, notwithstanding roughly applied brushwork.

**WHISTLER:** And the same allure – mysterious, and also, in a curious way, full of mystery – undoubtedly applies to Whistler's mother, a lady of a certain age whose powerful physical charms are rampantly obvious to any fellow still halfway capable of showing a girl a good time between the sheets.

What were the thoughts of Whistler (history teaches us the guy couldn't whistle for toffee, incidentally) as he grasped that brush and, bold as brass, began to paint his somewhat buttoned-up mother? What sort of lurid, lascivious and sexually charged thoughts lurked in the painterly mind of this distinguished Massachussetts-born painter who was influenced by Courbet, irritated Ruskin, sometime art-critic, genius and thoroughgoing drip, and whose work bears the unmistakable imprint of both Fantin-Latour and the Japanese masters, as he stared like a certifiable perve at his mother, his mum, the woman who gave him birth?

Did he stare hard, attempting to trace the slender curve of her implausibly perky breasts, so vibrant yet so still, and the delicate thrust of her come-hither buttocks as he slapped those first few strokes of bluey-grey on the well-primed canvas? We do not know, and only a slobbering old man dare to ask such an impertinent, unreasonable and objectionable question. But on the available evidence, scant as it may be, there is no reason to doubt that he fancied her something rotten.

**REMBRANDT:** I've been writing about Rembrandt for thirty-odd years. For this, he has good cause to be grateful. Others don't get the hots for those murky browns and detect a certain shiftiness about the eyes in those self-portraits, so curiously revealing yet so strangely unrevealing. But thirty years of shitting my guts out on his behalf has paid off. Rembrandt's now taken seriously as an artist, thanks to me, and I intend to write a book to give an overdue leg-up to bald 16th century playwright Shakespeare, whom I rate very highly, and who gives a shit what enemies think, dammit.

*As told to*
CRAIG BROWN

GARY, YOU'RE DRINKING TOO MUCH. THIS HAS GOT TO STOP...
LEAVE OFF, DEBS... I'M FINE...
YOU'RE NOT FINE. YOU HAVE TO FACE REALITY AND ADMIT YOU HAVE A SERIOUS DRINK PROBLEM...
I DO NOT...
DARLING, PLEASE THINK OF YOUR HEALTH... THINK ABOUT YOUR BODY...
I DON'T HAVE A SERIOUS DRINK PROBLEM. MY BODY'S FINE...
I'M STILL ON MY FIRST LIVER FOR GOD'S SAKE!

# Literary Review

## Brio pad

**Vernon God Little**
D.B.C. Pierre
*(Faber, £12.99)*

THE party is over, the literati have all gone home and the British Museum's carport extension is once more filled with sandwich-seeking tourists. Back in their offices, an undisclosed number of literary agents and publisher's editors are sedulously kicking themselves for not having picked this one up.

The shortlisted rivals are biting back the bile. The judges are back at their day jobs, though a few will be filing "why I chose it" or "why I didn't" pieces. And somewhere in the urban hinterland an incredulous first-time contender from nowhere is nursing a horrible hangover.

D.B.C. Pierre is a pen name based on a nickname based on a cartoon character, Dirty Pierre. D.B.C. stands for Dirty But Clean. With his cheque for fifty grand, perhaps that should be Dirty But Cleaned-up. But then, if what he told TV's Kirsty on the live link to the Man-Booker ceremony is true, about all the unpaid debts, it's more like Dirty But Cleaned-out. Real name Peter Finlay.

The play on names, and by extension identity, continues in his book. His 15-year-old hero, Vernon Gregory Little, is also variously referred to as Vern, Bernie, Vernon Genius, Gonad, Godzilla, Gonzales etc Little. Vernon is accused of complicity in a school massacre in Martirio, a small town in Texas. The killings were carried out by his best friend Jesus Navarro, a much-bullied Mexican misfit who simply couldn't take it any more. But Jesus took his own life after shooting all his classmates and the authorities need a scapegoat. Vernon suffers from a bowel disorder and was shitting at the time of the shootings, but can't use this as an alibi because he was doing this in the woods where he stashed his daddy's old gun and its supposedly incriminating fingerprints.

No one believes Vernon is innocent, not even his mother, who seems more interested in bragging to her coffee morning friends about her newly ordered fridge. A bogus TV reporter, Eulalio Ledesma, worms his way into their lives and affections, promising to tell Vernon's side of the story and then gathering evidence against him rather more effectively than the overweight police deputy, Vaine Gurie, assigned to his case. Like everyone else Vaine seems to spend most of her time hanging out at the Bar-B-Chew Barn, while swearing to her husband that she's sticking to her diet.

Since everyone in Martirio either knows or is related to everyone else, Vernon's hamfisted attempts to retrieve the incriminating weapon and abscond bail are repeatedly foiled by recognition. When he finally does get away, to Mexico, his naïve reliance on promises of help from his supposed girlfriend, Taylor Figueroa, leads to his recapture in a slick honey-trap operation. After a trial televised for the nation by Ledesma, he is convicted as an accessory to the school murders and sentenced to death. A last-minute domino-ripple of plot-twists saves his bacon and vanquishes some of the baddies.

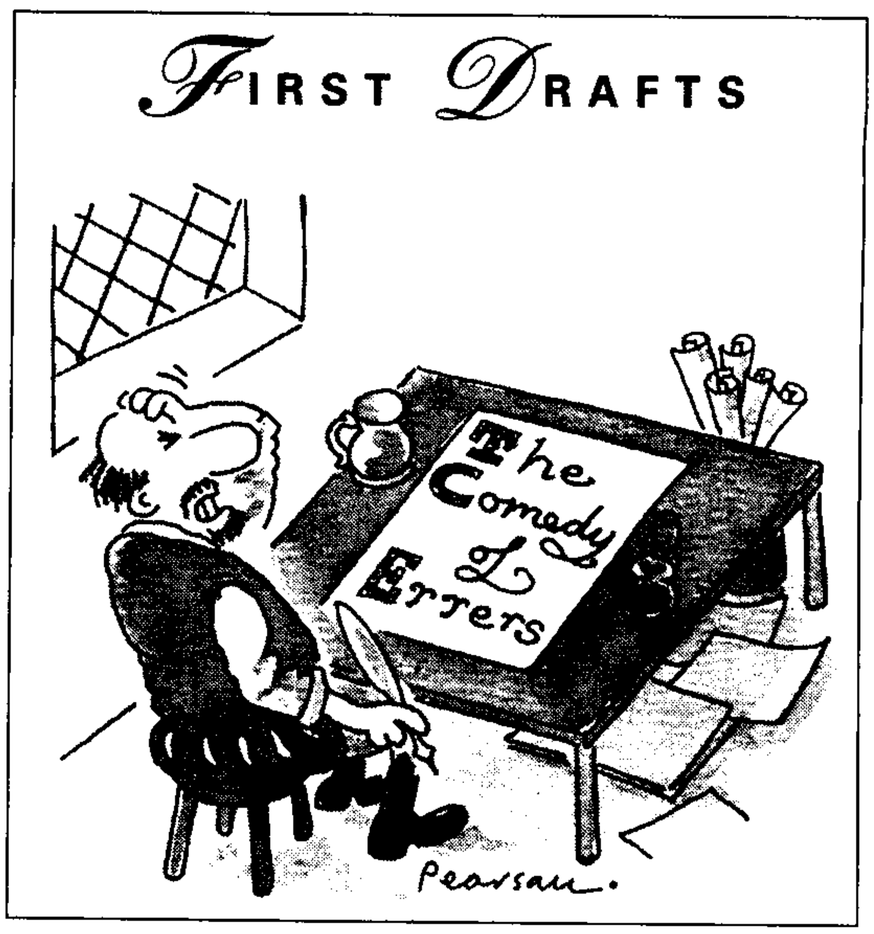
This story, told in a headlong gush of grungy teenage disgust, has a certain brio, which is just as well because, stripped of its gaudy style, it doesn't hold much water. For a small town hit by a big tragedy one gets very little sense of a community stricken with grief or that anyone is aware of the enormity of the events they're caught up in. Vernon himself only mentions the victims in the most perfunctory way, yet these were his classmates.

A more critical objection, for a novel hailed as a blistering satire on the American media, is that while we are repeatedly told that the town is crawling with cameras and reporters, the only reporter to come anywhere near the main suspect isn't even a real one, he's just a handyman pretending to be a CNN reporter. The relentless rise in Ledesma's fraudulent fortunes, which mirrors the fall in Vernon's, is a neat enough conceit, but what were the proper reporters from rival networks and papers up to all this time?

There are other, perhaps more technical, objections. If Vernon's gun wasn't used in the shooting, why does it matter that it's got his fingerprints on it? If Vernon is smart enough to get himself all the way to Acapulco, why is he dumb enough to think a girl, two years his senior, whom he's barely spoken to, would wire him money and give up her place at college to join him in his love nest hideaway?

So if it isn't true to life or logic, what are we left with? Style. Here again, the chorus of praise has compared little Vernon with *The Catcher in the Rye* (a sort of Dirty But Caulfield) and rejoiced at how he's kicked that old *Yellow Dog* downstairs. Everything is fucken this and fucken that, which always helps to pad things out. Then there is that play on names, producing "Adult Hitler", "Ally McBowell" and the philosopher "Manual Cunt". There is an obsession with shit, slime and bodily odours, both bad ones like "the air between your ass and your underwear" and good ones like the fruity "tang" from Taylor's tanga. Underwear features a good deal in fact, particularly female underwear, which is lovingly described, unlike the murder victims who are simply "sixteen units of flesh on the lawn". Perhaps this is the only way Vernon knows how to deal with a tragedy he feels everyone else is exploiting. Or perhaps he's just a badly drawn boy.

The shame of it is that the novel in spite of its faults, and to say nothing of the faults of its rivals, was at least a promising debut; but as a result of this prize and the consequent hype, it will now prove both a hard act for its author to follow and an all too easy act for its inevitable host of talentless imitators. Expect to see the publishers who missed this one trying to cash in with a bandwagon of third-rate "VG Lit."




## WHAT YOU DIDN'T MISS, Pt 94

**Journals Volume I**
John Fowles
*(Cape, £30)*

*3 October 1949*
Life: an irregular conjunction of particularities.

*10 October 1949*
Oxford imponderable under her grey stones and skies. My first tutorial with Professor Dull: dry, exact, meticulous, without humour. He fails to appreciate that beneath my insouciant manner and pitiless disinclination to do any work moves a coruscating intelligence. But I shall be revenged on this pack of vulgar fools.

*2 March 1951*
Eventually.

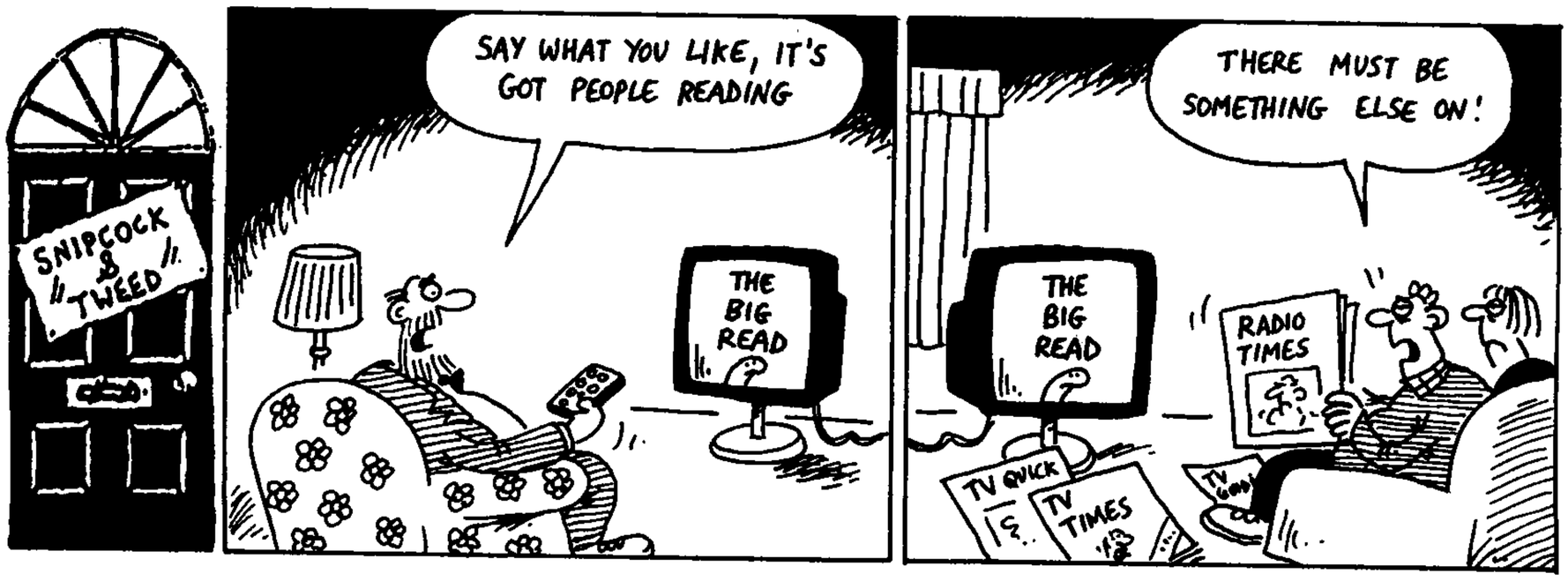
*6 September 1951*
At home with my parents: a day of savage tragedy. Myself, mute, absorbed in Hugh Delacourt Heigh's *Highbrow Sonatas* on the Third Programme; my mother engaged in some futile domestic task. All is arid, base, unkempt; the only real element my deracination. Yet I do not repine.

*12 May 1952*
Death: a candle flame suddenly extinguished, the hand unseen. The moth fluttering.

*14 June 1952*
Greece. I find the place agrees with me, though food, work, companions seedy and mediocre. I tolerate life. A fugitive, tatterdemalion quality that soothes. Nietzsche, Kierkegaard felt this, I believe. My book returned for the 37th time: the proud scars of rejection.

*3 April 1962*
Finally. My agent, a devious fellow, writes to say that I am to be given a large sum of money for my novel, *The Introvert*. It is nothing but my due, yet in any true sense the prospect appals me. Hollywood vulgarising my words, the praise of a multitude that is not worth having. I spurn them as I savour the bread they throw.

*4 June 1964*
Butter: more nutritious than margarine, I conclude. Yet there are some wounds that shall not heal. [*continues interminably*]



# *Blizzard of Oz*

## The Book of My Enemy: Collected Verse 1958–2003

Clive James (Picador, £15.99)

*A letter to Mr Clive James, to mark the publication of his* Collected Verse...

Dear Clive, I took your book up to the study
The better to appraise you next your peers
Martin, Craig Raine, Larkin – all those fuddy-duddies
That you've addressed your poems to for years
Such coy encomia might be thought romantic
A better word, alas, is "sycophantic".

Your verse, of course, depends on incongruity
Those brainy thoughts hemmed in by metric bands
The reader may find only superfluity
A poet rarely sitting on his hands
Using the dreary plod of terza rima
To hymn his jaunts to Tokyo and Lima.

"To Gore Vidal at 50" – you're fond of anniversaries
And bustling round the globe as cultural gaucho
Your chums bag TV shows and bursaries
In a land where Wood Lane meets the Groucho
You pastiche Amis (K) with effervescence
In a style a few yards short of obsolescence.

It's not all bad – oh no, there's personal stuff in here
Things about love, truths uttered from beneath the moral hat
The only absentee is Germaine Greer
Amid a throng of Ozzie takes on where it's at
'81, your rhyming round-up says, was quite a year
Two decades on, the SDP seem smallest of small beer.

"Last night the sea dreamed it was Greta Scacchi"
I'll admit I giggled hugely over that
Styled like an elephant with howdah by Versace
A versifying fizz that's fallen sadly flat.
My own credentials won't match up to you – alas
I never wrote for Ian Hamilton's Review.

Oh well. I have to go now Clive, my pen runs idle
Unlike your own uncurbed extravaganzas
Unchained by any editorial bridle
And dancing on from stanza unto endless stanza
As for your talent – well I'll gladly tender that
There are three Clives – James I, James II and Old Pretender.

## THE NEOPHILIACS

**"Face yoga — it's the new Botox."** — London *Evening Standard.*

"Food: the new asbestos?" — *Food Manufacture.*

**"Big is the new small."** — Advert in *Vanity Fair* for the Hummer jeep.

"Noodles are the new pizza." — *The Grocer* magazine.

**"Why Sunday is the new Saturday night."** — *Sydney Morning Herald.*

"Will rugby become the new football?" – *The Times.*

**"Eating in is the new eating out."** — Nick Nairn, *Scotland on Sunday.*

"Ping-pong is the new poker." — *Sunday Times* Style section.

**"She's made old-fashioned the new young, contentment the new glamour."** — *Glamour* magazine on Sarah Michelle Gellar (Buffy the vampire-slayer).

"Bottoms are the new bust." — *Glamour.*

**"Australia is the new Canada."** — *Toronto Globe & Mail.*

"In the early 1050s, people were writing letters saying the Normans are the new Saracens." — Professor Norman Housley, *In Our Time*, Radio 4.

**"Is a dose of good, old-fashioned sex the new antihistamine?"** — *Time Out New York.*

"Fit is the new hot, just as hot was once the new fanciable." — Simon Garfield, *Mail On Sunday.*

## ...AND THE NEOPHOBIC

"In Saturday's paper we had an outbreak of neophilia: 'Widnes is the new Chelsea'; Reading [of books, by the way, not the place just off the M4] is the new therapy'; 'Is rugby the new football?' Uncharitable people, I understand, say this type of construction may be cliched, tired, idle and mildly ridiculous, and they also point to its cousin, the become/are/is metaphor: 'Sinks, of course, have become the adventure playground of bathroom design'; 'Wooden floors are the cashmere sweaters of house design'; 'Book illustrations are becoming the watercolours and drawings of the 21st century.'

"Just thought I ought to say something, lest we provide easy copy for those hacks of a fortnightly persuasion who are moved to mock this sort of thing."

— Memo to hacks writing for the *Times* online version, from chief revise editor Richard Dixon.

**Advanced Dog Grooming** Ref: FEA 001/3-4

Working five hours per week throughout the academic year, you should have a City & Guilds 7750 (Level 3) qualification, proven experience of teaching or training and ideally a teaching qualification.

*Advertisement for part-time lecturer, University of Lincoln*

One of the motives for the big finale fight scene, the Showdown at the House of Blue Leaves, was to see whether he was capable of it, says [Quentin] Tarantino. "It was, 'Let's see if you can do some of the best action ever filmed and, if you can't, you'll know you're not as good as you think you are, you have limitations, stick to dialogue.' I was daring myself to hit my head on the ceiling of my talent."

***Guardian***

**What is her favourite dish in the book? 'Oh, what a question!' she cries, and there is such a long pause that I have time to wonder if she has even read the book. But then she says, 'I think there's something of my mother's which always goes down well because nobody's ever had it, which is ouef mollet with deep-fried capers. We were rather brought up on it – it was one of my mother's specialities.' So what is it? 'Well, it's sorft, you know.' What? 'Like a hard-boiled egg only sorft, and you take the shell off – quite tricky sometimes. I don't think you or I could do it.'**

**THE DUCHESS OF DEVONSHIRE on her new cookery book,**
***Observer***

# Pseuds Corner

Tarantino, plucking treasure from trash action forms (kung-fu, manga cartoons, spaghetti westerns) as Shakespeare plucked treasure from trash revenge yarns, brings more than violence.

He brings a kaleidoscope of tones that make the largest point possible about revenge. That it is not just a brute barrel-vision reflex to kill or punish, it can encompass a parallel cosmos of moods and feelings, of sudden desires and infinite patiences, of plan and counter-plan.

Revenge as drama, like revenge as reality, can be cold as well as hot. It can be as calm as Zen and as wild as war. It can embrace the cross-accident comedy of scene one, in which a frenzied Thurman-Fox knife fight in a suburban parlour is suspended by the arrival of Fox's daughter from school. ("Coffee?") It can limn the frozen lyricism of a showdown in a Japanese garden where only the eerie clank and flow of a snow-mantled water-pump prefigures the clank of weaponry and flow of blood.

**NIGEL ANDREWS**
***Financial Times***

*Dividing the few who have heard or seen them, art/punk duo Selfish Cunt aren't simply an in-joke too far perpetrated by the denizens of London's trendy Hoxton – more a malignancy at the heart of the fashionable life. Singer Martin Tomlinson and guitarist Patrick Constable create unruly anti-songs, angry unravellings of beatbox stutter, garage noise and invective. Genuinely menacing double A-side Britain is Shit/Fuck the poor is the most brutal state-of-the-nation address since the Sex Pistols' God Save the Queen.*

**'The best 40 bands in Britain',**
***Guardian***

I've taken to long-distance walking as a means of dissolving the mechanised matrix which compresses the space-time continuum, and decouples humans from physical geography.

**WILL SELF**
***Independent Magazine***

The module will focus on current debates concerning the arguable notion of decadence in the aesthetic field, the impact of a new technological order on visual culture, and the various related calls for resistance. The issue of resistance and its dynamics will be analysed in the context of its historical origins through various theoretical frameworks including nihilism, romanticism, critical theory, deconstruction, phenomenology and semiotic ecology. The work of specific practitioners and artistic movements from the past century will be used to examine issues such as the real, the self, the existent, authenticity, utopia, authorship and the spectacle in reference to the concept of artistic resistance.

The module is designed to help student [sic] clarify and position their own practice in relation to this area.

**Anglia Polytechnic 'Dynamics of Resistance' module**

CONTRIBUTORS: Dave Espley, Giles Game, Peter Grave, Rael Martell, Edward Lindsay, M.Gibson.

**£10 paid for all entries**

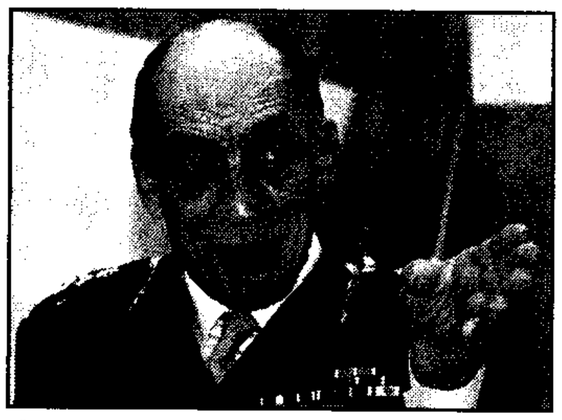
# IN THE BACK

BLOODY SUNDAY

## Corporal punishment

**DESPITE the many millions of pounds paid to lawyers on the Bloody Sunday inquiry, it now seems that the biggest mystery so far to emerge at the inquiry will stay unsolved.**

The background to the mystery was set out in *Eye* 1085 in July. For some months before that, the inquiry had argued about a typewritten document, known as the "shot list", submitted to the inquiry by the army. The document was dated on the day after the killings in January 1972 and gave detailed map references of each shooting and each target.



General Sir Michael Jackson

The list has been exposed at the inquiry as completely bogus. The shootings did not take place at the map references, nor were any of the targets carrying nail bombs or weapons, as the document indicated. Who was responsible for this entirely misleading "shot list"? In his evidence in June, Colonel Ted Loden, commanding officer of the Paras support company that killed all 13 victims on Bloody Sunday could not explain how the list was compiled or why it was so full of such glaring howlers.

While Loden was giving evidence, counsel to the inquiry Christopher Clarke QC announced that another document, exactly the same as the "shot list", had been handed in by Jeremy Williams of the ministry of defence's Bloody Sunday team. This document was handwritten. Loden said at once that the handwriting was not his. Instead, it was confirmed that the writing was that of Michael Jackson, second in command of the 1st parachute battalion on Bloody Sunday and now, as General Sir Michael Jackson, head of all Britain's armed forces.

The general gave evidence to the inquiry in May, but did not mention writing out any list on the day after the killings. The *Eye* predicted that he would be recalled. And so he was on 15 October. He was hampered throughout his evidence by his poor memory. He admitted that the "shot list" was in his own handwriting and had a "vague memory" of composing it. He could not explain how so many errors had been made in his list, and denied that he had "at any stage been involved in any attempt to distort or cover-up what happened on that day". None of the lawyers for the bereaved families challenged that claim.

Jackson volunteered that he had probably been instructed to compile the report by 8 Brigade (whose headquarters were in Derry), or by army headquarters, Northern Ireland. He added: "It is possible that the requirement may have been instigated in London." This remarkable observation – that he may have had orders from London that led to his entirely false report – was not even questioned by any of the expensive lawyers on parade.

The mystery grew even murkier when Christopher Clarke QC gave the inquiry more information of how the "shot list" emerged in the first place. Sir Michael's handwritten notes, he disclosed, had been found by a corporal who was clearing out an army cupboard at Ebrington barracks, Derry, in 1998. The corporal had photocopied them and left the originals in the photocopier. There they were later discovered by an unnamed officer, who passed them on to the ministry from which they eventually emerged at the inquiry.

What happened to the anonymous corporal? He was locked up, court-martialled for "conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline", reduced to the ranks and discharged from the army in disgrace. Who was this unfortunate corporal and who was the officer who found the documents? The chairman, Lord Savile, told the inquiry he and his team had seen the court martial documents but did not think they were relevant. He then paused and cast his eyes round the long rows of lawyers as if to inquire if any of them wanted to take the matter further. No they didn't. The expensive bums stayed firmly in their seats. Somehow the lawyers for the families had failed to probe even the probability that a documentary cover-up of the Bloody Sunday massacre had been inspired from the highest regions of the MoD and, when the possibility of such a cover-up emerged from documents, failed even to try to unveil the bizarre manner in which they came to light.

DAME SHIRLEY'S MILLIONS

## WITH GOOD GRACE

**ON 22 SEPTEMBER, under stock market regulations governing the substantial acquisition of shares, solicitors' firm Stephenson Harwood disclosed on behalf of its client Oliver Grace Jnr the acquisition of 27,212,914 ordinary shares in Redbus Interhouse plc, an internet company run by Dame Shirley Porter's son, John.**

The acquisition of the shares, on top of the 8,473,750 he previously held, gave Grace a 23 percent stake in Redbus, a firm which had once been helped through hard times with a £500,000 loan from his friend and fellow director John Porter (*Eye* 1091).

Was it wise for Grace to employ the services of Stephenson Harwood to act on his behalf in buying his latest tranche of shares in Redbus, a company so closely associated with the Porter family? Stephenson Harwood is the law firm instructed by Westminster council to find the millions Dame Shirley Porter has hidden in an attempt to avoid paying the £37m she owes for her part in the gerrymandering scandal. Conflict of interest? What conflict of interest?

Last October PricewaterhouseCoopers resigned as accountant for another John Porter company, i-spire, accusing its directors of failing to disclose to shareholders "material mis-statements" in its accounts.

Whether the "material mis-statements" related in any way to Lady Tesco's hidden fortune – which is of course the subject of the hunt by solicitors Stephenson Harwood – is unclear. Evidence exists that Dame Shirl has invested in i-spire. This would put John Porter in a spot, given that the courts have ruled that anyone who helps Lady Tesco dispose of her assets faces not only the seizure of their own assets but also risks jail.

One puzzle for investigators centres around two Microsoft Excel spreadsheets, prepared by a former financial director (FD) of i-spire, which differ ever so slightly. One clearly identifies both Lady Tesco and her husband Leslie as investors. The other spreadsheet, identical in every other respect, shows in place of the Porters' names the companies Whitecoast and Sunset Investments. Sunset is part-owned by Leslie Porter and Dame Shirl's former financial adviser, Peter Green. Curiously, when the cursor is passed over the entries for Whitecoast and Sunset Investments, up pop in annotation boxes the names of Dame Shirl and her beloved Leslie.

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE

## Another Dud

**DUDLEY HIGGINS' release from a five-year prison sentence for a post office robbery he did not commit was a truly extraordinary affair. It only came about because the real robber, Mark Vendryes, went up to Higgins while both were in Winson Green jail, confessed to the crime and apologised.**

Not for the first time it turned a critical spotlight on West Midlands police officers whose conduct led to the wrongful conviction. Mr Higgins, a 32-year-old father of two, worked for a magistrate and had never been in any kind of trouble before.

Dudley Higgins

The three appeal court judges who acquitted him were so disturbed by the case they took the unprecedented step of sending a copy of their judgment to the West Midlands chief constable so he could investigate further "and ensure that members of his force never conduct another trial in this way".

As Vendryes told Higgins, not only had he committed the £8,000 robbery for which Higgins was convicted, but he robbed the very same post office only two weeks later and netted a further £14,000.

Higgins passed this information to the lawyer he had taken on after his conviction, Maslen Merchant, who soon discovered that there had indeed been two identical robberies by the same man – but this crucial evidence was concealed at Higgins' trial in May 2001. When the case was finally heard at appeal, Lord Justice Kay said the case caused the judges "extreme concern". Police had altered the reference number of a key exhibit: a sketch of the robber drawn up in relation to the second robbery but made to look as if it applied to the first robbery of which Higgins was accused.

The key statement of the postmaster – which said there were two robberies carried out by the same man – was "clearly suppressed" and never disclosed to the defence. The judges were especially critical of the officer leading the inquiries into the robberies and responsible for disclosure, WDC Patricia Mooney: "It defies belief to suggest that she would not have realised the significance of the material that we consider was being suppressed," they said.

The judges concluded that the Higgins case "ought to cause concern to all concerned, particularly those responsible for the conduct of the officers concerned with this case in their police force."

And they added: "We for our part would take a lot of persuading that there was not some misconduct in the conduct of this prosecution."

That was on 21 months ago. And what has happened since? West Midlands police have so far refused to apologise. Allegations of perverting the course of justice were rejected, although Inspector Knacker has at last decided that Mooney will face a disciplinary hearing on 10 December on relatively minor charges relating to the performance of her duty and a failure to obey a lawful order. But even that came only after the police complaints authority insisted on disciplinary charges. A second detective constable is to receive "advice" over the matter.

Merchant has written to complain and so far had no response. "I think the will of the court of appeal is being thwarted," he said. "In view of such a strongly-worded judgment, I can't conceive that the judges will be happy with what's happening."

# Labour plays the race card

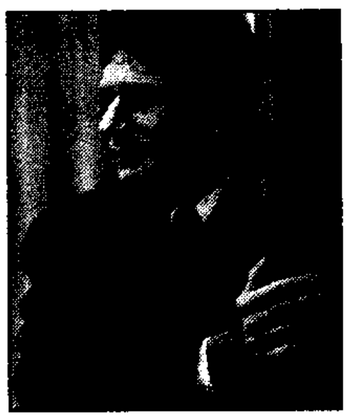
**"NEW" Labour often boasts of its hostility to racial discrimination. Yet a recent employment tribunal decision shows that within months of the 1997 general election victory, the Labour party in England's second city was engaging in systematic racial discrimination against a previously elected representative.**

In a last desperate throw, after nearly two years of hearings, Labour tried to stop the tribunal announcing its decision. Its lawyers claimed that another case, decided in the court of appeal, overruled the tribunal and made any findings irrelevant. The tribunal disagreed, and proceeded with its devastating determination, which it published on 19 September.

Raghib Ahsan, of Pakistani origin, joined Labour in 1982. In 1991 he was elected to Birmingham city council to represent Sparkhill ward, 35 percent of whose electorate is of Pakistani origin. He was re-elected to the council in 1994, but the following year became involved in a controversy about "housing regeneration grants". Like other councillors in Birmingham he advised people in his area to apply direct for the grants rather than take their turn in the queue set up by the council. In this he was acting perfectly within his rights and in the best interests of the people he represented.

Soon after, the practice was reported in the *Observer* in February 1995 and Labour suspended all branches, including Sparkhill, in four Birmingham constituencies, though in Hodge Hill, a predominantly white constituency, the party was not suspended. In a highly controversial selection process organised by officials of the Birmingham Labour party's regional committee in December 1997, Cllr Ahsan was not selected for the seat he had held for six years, and a white man (whose Labour party membership had been allowed to lapse) took his place.

The tribunal described answers to questions to Labour party officials about the selection process as "equivocal and evasive". The tribunal went on: "We could find in the evidence no satisfactory reason for the continued suspension of the eight wards for almost three years up to December 1997 and beyond. It was noteworthy that of the four reinstated branches, three were in very predominantly white wards whilst the fourth had a low Pakistani population. By contrast the eight remaining suspended branches covered almost all wards with a significant Pakistani population."



**Raghib Ahsan**

As for Mr Ahsan, "it was perfectly plain to us on the evidence we heard that the respondent (the Labour Party) wanted the applicant off the council" and that "his ethnic origins had a significant influence on the outcome of the selection procedure".

Worse was to follow. In July 1998 Mr Ahsan's name was removed from the panel of candidates available for election to the city council. The reason given by at least two Labour party officials was that he had sued the council under the race relations act. The tribunal had no difficulty in rejecting this excuse and finding that the council had victimised Mr Ahsan for using the law (originally introduced by a Labour government) to protect himself against racial discrimination.

Nearly two years later, in March 2000, Mr Ahsan tried again to get on the shortlist to choose a Labour candidate in Sparkhill ward. On 18 February 2000, Labour MP for Birmingham Sparkbrook and Small Heath Roger Godsiff wrote to the police suggesting there should be a police presence at the meeting that was likely, he thought, to be "highly charged". Labour's regional director for Birmingham, Fiona Gordon, promptly cancelled the meeting and set up a special committee of three, chaired by herself, to select a candidate. All three selectors had been involved in the previous cases brought by Mr Ahsan against the Labour party. He was not selected. After some highly critical comments on Fiona Gordon, the tribunal concluded that he had been discriminated against and victimised. The remedies will be decided later.

# Sussex says sorry

**ROGER HARRIS, the 64-year-old maritime pilot who was falsely imprisoned and maliciously prosecuted after being arrested at an animal rights protest, has received £5,000 compensation from Sussex police.**

*Eye* readers will recall how public order charges against Mr Harris were thrown out after video footage shot before Mr Harris's arrest showed a police inspector shouting: "Let's have him. That old git that's walking away."

For Mr Harris, who had never been in trouble before, it was also the start of a two-year battle to correct a bizarre and false criminal record for theft and fraud that Sussex police claimed he had.

After repeated demands from his solicitor to have the inaccurate police records corrected, Mr Harris, from Gravesend in Kent, eventually complained to the information commission responsible for data protection. The force was found to have ignored procedures and acted in contravention of the data protection act.

Mr Harris was told he might be entitled to compensation if he wanted to pursue the matter through the civil courts. Initially he decided to rely on the police complaints authority (PCA) to investigate his claims of, among other things, wrongful arrest and a failure to wipe his record once it was known to be false. But once the PCA said the only complaint it was prepared to uphold was the "old git" insult, he decided to sue.

Sussex offered £1,000 for his three hours of wrongful detention, £2,000 for the malicious prosecution and £2,000 aggravated damages for the "false allegation of previous convictions". He told the *Eye* he has given all the money to animal rights and welfare groups "save £300, retained to buy myself a symbolic present of a new loo…"

## FOLLOW-UPS... FOLLOW-UPS... FOLLOW-UPS...

■ **CAFCASS:** Overworked staff at the children and family court service were wondering how the troubled body managed to drastically reduce its scandalous backlog over the summer without any extra staff or money.

Huge numbers of vulnerable children are waiting to be allocated a court guardian. But while staff have noticed no easing of pressure or deadlines, a parliamentary answer from Margaret Hodge, the new children's minister, made them sit up and listen.

According to Mrs Hodge, by September the backlog of 1,200 unallocated divorce case children had been reduced to less than 400 and care cases were down to around 550.

In fact the reduction was simply a case of "new" Labour sleight of hand. What Mrs Hodge failed to mention was the new method of recording only the cases that are still unallocated *10 weeks* before a report is due to be filed with the court, rather than all the unallocated cases. Rumbled by the probation union Napo, she was forced to admit that when all unallocated divorce cases were added together, they remained at 1,200.

Thus Cafcass is now trying to massage the figures in a different way. Workers are being ordered to take on extra caseloads, even when they are adamant they have no time or room to work on them. In some cases managers have been allocating cases to guardians who have made it clear they consider it "a dangerous and dishonest practice". So a child will have a named worker – but only on paper. How does that square with government pledges after the Victoria Climbie inquiry? It doesn't.

■ **POT AND KETTLE NEWS:** The current issue of *Working Together*, an Inland Revenue circular to accountants and financial advisers, has an interesting item entitled "Offshore Arrangements Project".

It warns readers sternly: "Over recent years an increasing number of UK resident individuals and companies have used offshore financial centres, often referred to as 'tax havens', for tax planning, secrecy, asset protection and other financial reasons. Despite the legitimacy of many of these offshore arrangements, there is evidence of their use as vehicles for evasion… Additionally, a significant proportion of land and buildings in the UK is owned, or has been owned, by offshore companies."

What to do about this scandalous state of affairs? The document goes on: "The Inland Revenue has embarked upon a programme to identify UK companies whose shares are held, in whole or in part, by companies or trusts in offshore financial centres. Those companies or trusts will be subject to profiling and risk assessment to identify those that, prima facie, represent the highest risk. The Revenue will seek to identify all transactions in UK land and property where either vendor or purchaser is a non-UK company or individual."

Somewhere, soon, as they busy themselves with this inquiry, Revenue officials are likely to identify a familiar culprit: the Inland Revenue. As the *Eye* has pointed out for more than two years now, the Revenue sold 600 of its UK-based buildings to a company based in… a tax haven.

GOOD NEWS SPECIAL

# Educational vision

**THE private firm controlling schools in the London borough of Waltham Forest has lifted the threat of closure from a centre of excellence for educating blind and visually impaired children – after pressure from parents, teachers, pupils and the *Eye*.**

Joseph Clarke School (below) is the only state school for blind children across north London and much of the south east, and it achieved a near perfect score at its last Ofsted inspection.

However, as we reported in *Eye* 1079, EduAction, an off-shoot of the *Eye's* old friends Nord Anglia, planned to close the school and dispose of the land and buildings, saying the children should be integrated into mainstream schools. The move would have left many other education authorities at a loss, as 80 percent of pupils came from other LEA areas which paid for children to attend the highly-regarded school.

The reprieve is tied to plans to redefine the school as "visual impairment and complex needs" and will see up to 30 children with no visual impairment attend the school. Places for children from outside the borough are likely to be squeezed.

Meanwhile EduAction will still get to close a school. The 43-pupil Hawkswood School for children with hearing impairment will be shoe-horned into Brookfield House School for children with physical needs from September 2005.

***You can contact Paul Foot on 020 7287 3183 or the In the Back team on 020 7437 4017***

# In the City

ELLIOTT Bernerd, one of the smartest property men of recent years, is struggling to persuade shareholders in Chelsfield that it is only worth the £860 million he is offering to take his property group private. Not surprising, as the City knows that management buy-outs are a form of legalised theft.

Nobody knows or should know better what a company is really worth than its directors. And as they have to borrow to make the buy-out they have to assume there is something left, or coming through, to pay off the debts and leave a fat profit. So given the Bernerd reputation it is inevitable that if he is offering 305p a share institutional investors figure the right price is at least 350p if not higher. Which is why the shares are 318p.

One so far unannounced deal which could inflate Chelsfield's value is currently cooking in Gibraltar. It is a huge combined residential and commercial development on a large site on the east side of the Rock. Chelsfield is understood to be the favourite to obtain the go-ahead for the development, which is apparently to be designed by none other than Lord (Norman) Foster of gherkin fame. The development could be worth more than £100m.

Chelsfield was brought in by Bernerd's long time deal finder Paul "Boom Boom" Bloomfield. Despite a mixed personal financial history (one bankruptcy, one individual voluntary arrangement), a fondness for too colourful associates and a propensity not to walk the walk when it comes to big deals, Bloomfield has never been far from Bernerd.

But true to form where Bloomfield is concerned, the Gibraltar deal is already said to be coming under attack locally. It seems one of Bloomfield's original partners is unhappy and claims to have been rowed out of the deal. There are also questions about whether the tender process has been carried out correctly. The suspicion is that the local town council of chief minister Peter Caruana may have been too star struck by the Foster/Chelsfield package.

No doubt Chelsfield shareholders will be given full details of the Gibraltar project and its potential value before they are asked to sell their shares either to Bernerd or the rival offer being encouraged by the independent directors.

VENSON Group, the private vehicle fleet management business whose clients include the Metropolitan Police and which is backed by Irish investor Dermot Desmond as well as Canadian bank CIBC and builders John Laing, finds itself inadvertently embroiled in South Africa's biggest corruption scandal. Its local joint venture partner, Durban businessman Schabir Shaik, faces charges of corruption, tax evasion and fraud. Implicated in the case is South African deputy president Jacob Zuma. Shaik is Zuma's financial advisor.

Five years ago Venson announced a joint deal with Shaik's Nkobi Holdings to bid for fleet management contracts. Nkobi Venson was unveiled during a visit to South Africa by then junior trade minister Barbara Roche. Zuma subsequently appeared in a celebratory promotional video produced by Venson in 2000. The company is bidding for four government PFI contracts.

Shaik is due to stand trial next year. At the heart of the case is the controversial arms deal whereby Nkobi was chosen as its partner by French group Thomson-CSF (now Thales) which was then awarded a £100m contract to supply corvettes. Shaik's brother was chief of acquisitions at the Department of Defence. He has since resigned. Prosecutors say Zuma accepted £104,000 in bribes from Shaik but have declined to charge him despite claiming to have a prima facie case. Zuma denies he was bribed.

The charge sheet alleges that Shaik and Nkobi Holdings were paying off Zuma from 1995 to 2002 after developing a political strategy using Shaik's contacts to win the arms deal. Zuma is said to have furthered the business interests of Shaik and Nkobi. Zuma is also accused of being a secret shareholder in Nkobi.

This is no doubt all very embarrassing to Venson and its shareholders who are not accused of any wrongdoing but shows what can happen when you chose a politically influential business partner.

A SUDDEN if unsurprising silence from Northern Cyprus about Polly Peck fugitive and serial returner Asil Nadir's plans to come back to Britain. His recent BBC-TV interview showed a man clearly detached from the reality of the Polly Peck crash talking endlessly of plots while ignoring any questions about the near £1 billion black hole into which his company disappeared in 1990.

Although the Serious Farce Office quite correctly will not agree to bail Nadir, he refuses to return unless he can be assured of overturning that decision and preventing any trial. His lawyers now talk of clever legal ploys which will mean his return the day before a hearing and just a night or two behind bars. We shall see.

Meanwhile in Cyprus political events could well overtake Nadir and the SFO. Elections in December in Northern Cyprus could see erstwhile protector Rauf Denktash defeated by a united Turkish-Cypriot opposition seeking reunification with the Greeks in the rest of the island. But Denktash still has influential friends in Ankara – he was seated with them when Turkey played England in Istanbul. Somewhat surprisingly, Nadir is backing unification. But the vote is expected to be close.

A united Cyprus would mean acceptance of the European arrest warrant which may be applied in the Greek part from January, four months before Cyprus joins the European Union. The SFO could then seek and presumably obtain Nadir's extradition – Cyprus is having to change its constitution to allow its citizens to be extradited.

But what if Denktash wins and Northern Cyprus is not reunited by the December 2004 deadline when Turkey is expected to begin talks for accession to the EU? Presumably Nadir will continue to sit there until the Turkey/Northern Cyprus issue is resolved – it is a condition of Turkish entry. He knows too much for Denktash to cut him loose.

Perhaps more interesting is what the SFO will do if Denktash loses and Cyprus is united by May 2004? Will it then seek to bring Nadir to trial? How could it not start extradition proceedings for its most famous piece of unfinished business? The reality is that Nadir is a trial the SFO has not wanted for several years because of the problems created by the passage of time and its own mistakes during the investigation. The question now is whether Nadir will have the courage to call the SFO's bluff before political developments do it for him?

"MY word is my bond" used to be the proud boast in the Square Mile. "Failing anything more profitable" was the unspoken addition of those with a closer knowledge of the City at work. And despite the greed-driven criminality and duplicity which have seen shareholders regularly victimised by corporate rapers and pillagers, truth, like trust, is still said to be a cornerstone of the stock market – at least by the regulators.

When, then, are chairmen, chief executives or other City figures of influence, such as major shareholders, allowed to lie and mislead with impunity when it suits them? Why are they allowed by the Takeover Panel and the Financial Services Authority to operate on a cynical "that was then, this is now" basis?

The position after all seems crystal clear. According to the panel's general principles, shareholders must be given "sufficient information and advice" to reach a "properly informed decision". No "relevant information" should be withheld. All parties to an offer must make every effort to prevent "the creation of a false market". Statements should not be made that "mislead shareholders or the market".

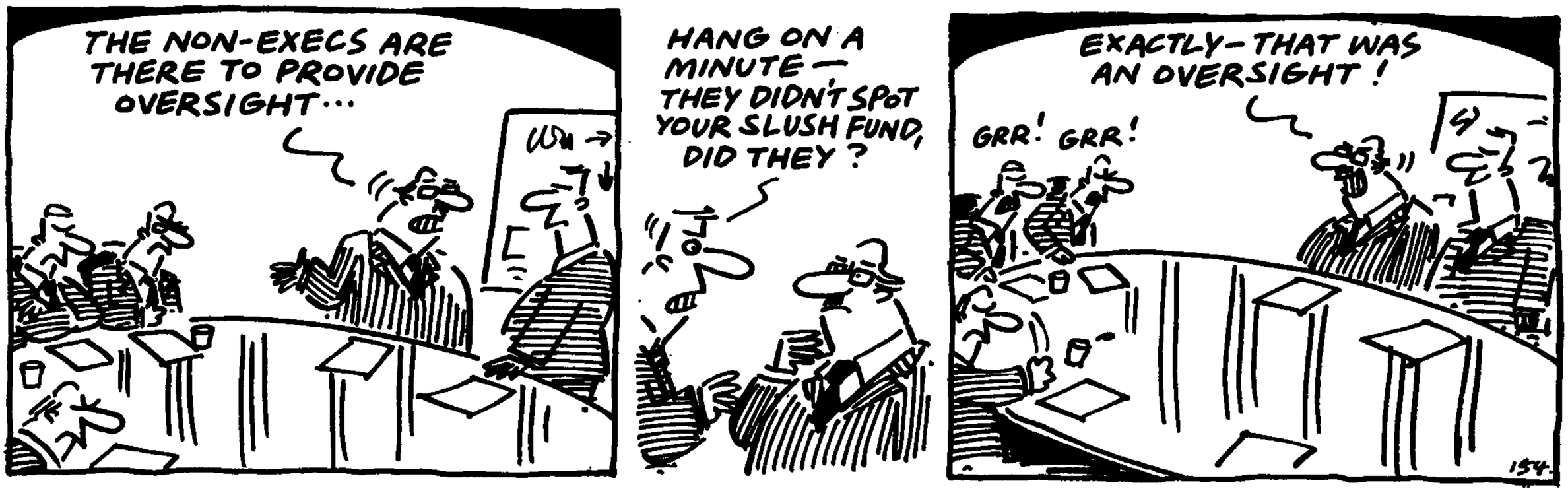
Yet four examples illustrate the growing problem of politician-style City doublespeak which would encourage any right thinking person never to believe a word those involved said again.

Earlier this month the chief executive of chocolate retailer Thorntons, Peter Burdon, admitted to the *Sunday Telegraph* that he had lied two weeks earlier when denying that he was in discussions to sell the business. Burdon denied the since disclosed MBO to his PR man, who passed on the lie to the *Telegraph*, who in turn killed their story. Lying indirectly according to Burdon is fine and no breach of Panel rules!

In July, Fidelity Investments issued an immediate denial of a *Sunday Times* story that it was seeking support to remove Michael Green and Charles Allen from the merged Carlton/Granada ITV giant. "Fidelity Investments wishes to state its wholehearted support in all respects for the merger of the two companies." That statement was a lie –

THE DIRECTORS

DREDGE & RIGG

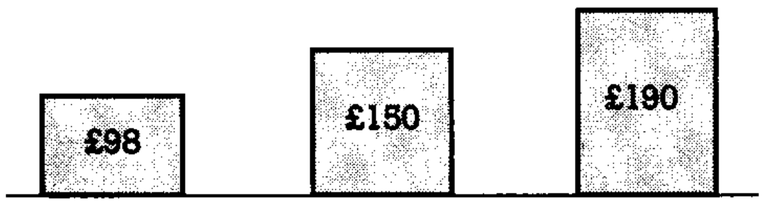

THE NON-EXECS ARE THERE TO PROVIDE OVERSIGHT...
WSH
HANG ON A MINUTE — THEY DIDN'T SPOT YOUR SLUSH FUND, DID THEY?
EXACTLY - THAT WAS AN OVERSIGHT!
GRR! GRR!
154.

# Stock Horror

by 'Bruin'

## Farewell then, Michael Green

Value of £100 invested ten years ago in...




as many outside the *Sunday Times* and inside Fidelity knew. Two weeks ago Fidelity fund manager Anthony Bolton led the *coup* that removed Carlton boss Green. Bolton, if asked, would no doubt have the City believe that he only subsequently decided Green had to go.

A year ago, when rumours of the revived Carlton/Granada deal began to spread, the BBC's business editor Jeff Randall – stenographer to the City rich and famous – tackled Green's opposite number and Granada Brutus, Charles Allen. Allen described the rumours as "rubbish" and denied any deal was imminent. Within 36 hours it was announced the two companies were in "advanced talks". Allen claimed the deal had only been possible since he met Randall thanks to a brilliant merchant banking inspiration. Well, as they say, if you believe that you will believe anything of Charles Allen – as no doubt Michael Green now does.

It is not only takeovers that lead company chairmen to lie. Back in March 2000 British Airways chairman Lord Marshall categorically denied to the *Observer* that the company planned to replace its abject chief executive Robert Ayling. "It is untrue. It is a lie," was Marshall's unequivocal response to the suggestion that headhunters were already looking for Ayling's replacement. Within a week Ayling was gone.

Many City journalists have similar stories. Usually it is not the lie direct. Most senior City suits are smarter than Allen and Marshall. They use their PR flaks to lie for them on the basis that is why they are paid. This avoids any unpleasant personal explanations. Or, like politicians, they abuse an off-the-record relationship to mark the hack's card the wrong way. That makes it all the more difficult to call the lie without appearing dumb. And the City suits can always say, like those Tory MPs seeking to encourage others to assassinate IDS, it is the price for access. Swallow the lie and a pain-relieving scoop will come along later.

Company chairman can seek to explain lies by hiding behind City rules about not providing price sensitive information to one party, or by simple Machiavellian expediency. But there is no need to lie – whatever happened to "no comment"? And is not the lie misleading investors?

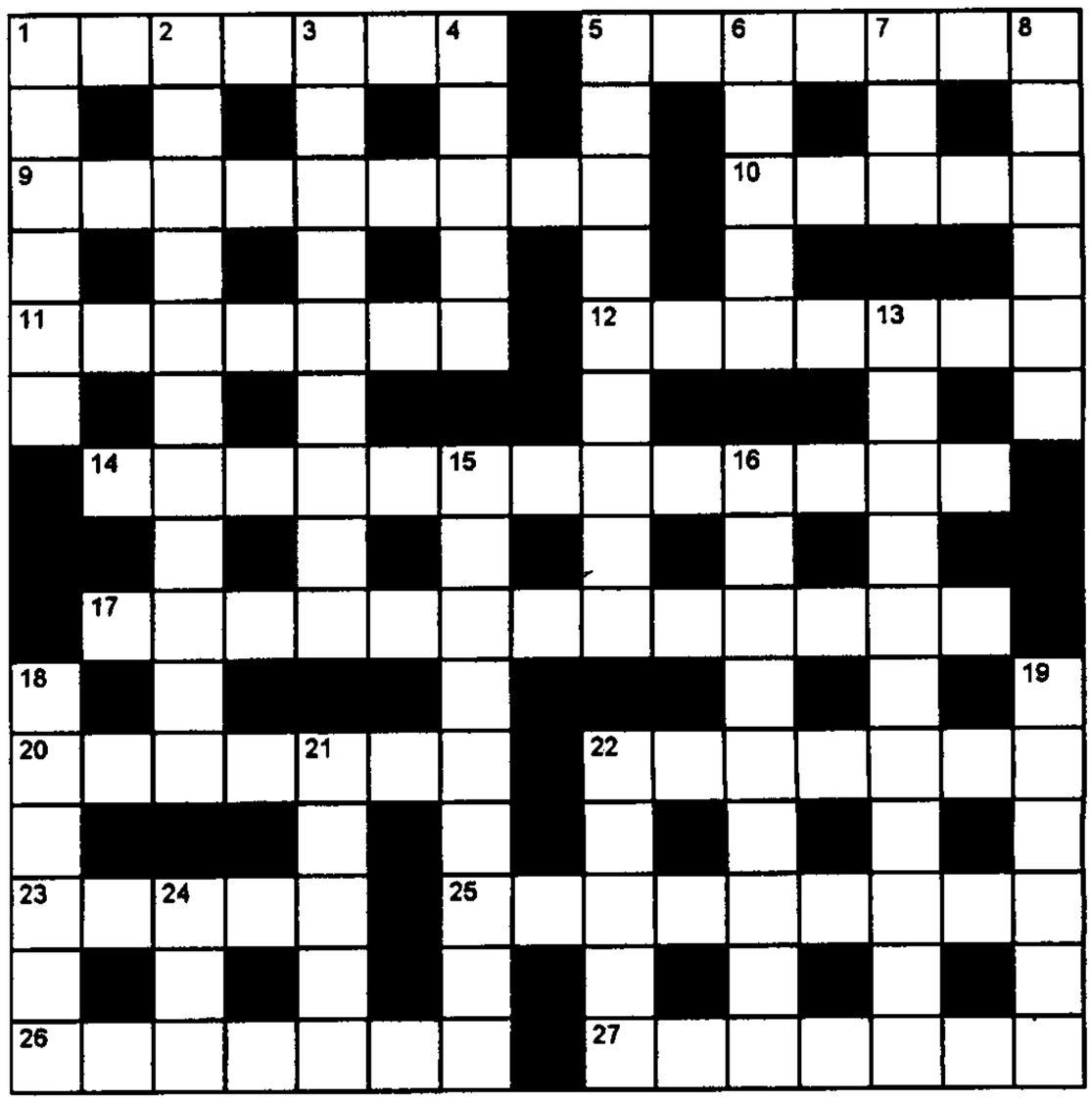
Company chiefs and their PR flaks are quick to criticise newspapers for not checking or getting stories wrong. None other than *FT*-owning Marjorie Scardino chastised financial journalists last year for being too superficial. The City regulators often complain about "leaks" but do nothing about the leakers. They also do nothing about the liars.

Huey Long, the corrupt political boss of Louisiana, said "Tell them I lied" when confronted by angry donors from rival local interests, both of which he had promised to support in return for campaign cash. Ultimately the "Kingfish" was assassinated. The men in suits do not face such a severe sanction. But the response to their cynical approach to the truth should be a further reduction in City credibility. Investors like journalists do well to treat sceptically denials of those stories which have the ring of truth.

***'Slicker'***

# EYE CROSSWORD 247

by Cyclops



**£100 prize to first correct solution opened on 7 November 2003.**

**Entries to 'Crossword', Private Eye, 6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN or via email to crossword@private-eye.co.uk**

### ACROSS

1 Lousy MP screwed up a godly home (7)
5 Stirrers accept the point: they risk losing their sight (7)
9 After hot march, knackered – captured by wimpish German forces (9)
10 Spot in the middle of bonk or "earth-shatterer" (5)
11 Recruits erratic skier without balls (7)
12 Fergie-type looking flustered on getting oral sex (7)
14 How a boxer does it (6-7)
17 Be unyielding like Punch and care not at all (4,4,1,4)
20 Piss-taker Arthur Batty orbits earth (7)
22 Europeans need bloke inside to wield the cane perhaps (7)
23 Small car hits bollocks, almost – capital! (5)
25 Learning about rude sex and backing Number One (9)
26 Bollocks look clean (7)
27 Smartarse Ernie at take off (4,3)

### DOWN

1 Making advances at the nurse's place (6)
2 Yes, smooch more promiscuously – it'll make a man of you (1,10)
3 2001, for example, I got into marijuana, coming out with an Oz insult (6,3)
4 Schoolboy's quaint "Up yours" is repellent (5)
5 Political scandal ensues when piss (putting it mildly) is found on wicket (9)
6 Clergy member, up and gobbling Kelvin, is exposed (5)
7 Organ long abandoned by aristocrat (3)
8 Bloke on date (second) is erect (6)
13 Kinky togs Eric is in, pointlessly being a turn-on (11)
15 Our Brenda's version of the issue of Rupert Murdoch: "last in, second out" (9)
16 Wendy is chesty (outside reverse fits) (9)
18 Regular tripper? That's lower than garbage (6)
19 Dick's obsession with youth (6)
21 Another name for Thatcher's substantial reduction of child allowance (5)
22 Partner of brave Polly's outcry when King taken away (5)
24 Born north of the Home Counties, that's Daisy's trouble (3)

## Crossword 246 winner: J. HORWOOD

ACROSS: 1 Hobnob 5 Booze-ups 10 Pissoir 11 Impasto 13 Stab 15 Green light 17 Xenophobic 21 Edgy 23 Student 24 Felt-tip 27 Human guinea-pig 28 Sentinel 29 Toping.

DOWN: 2 Onanist 3 Numbs 4 Bonking 5/9 Bush administration 6 Oarsmen 7 Extra time 8 Pooftah 12 Derby 13/16 Sex toy 14 Broadcast 18 Enthuse 19 Handgun 20 Clement 22 Going in 25 Top up 26 Dial.

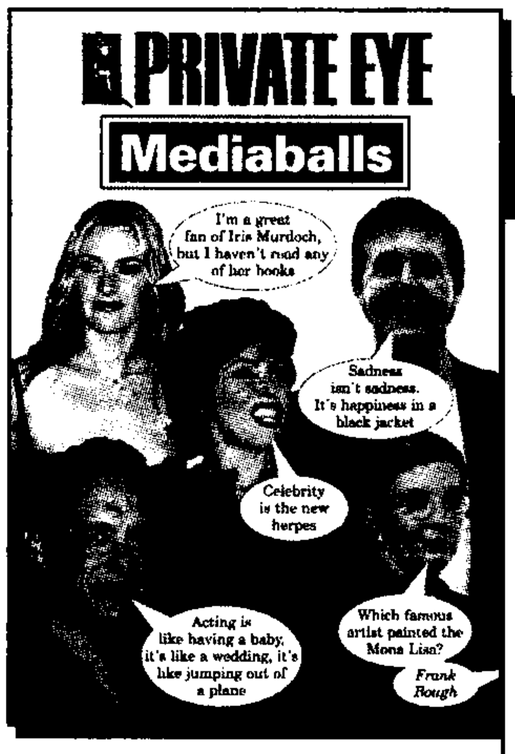
YOBETTES
HUSBAND
That crowd, they're drunk, obnoxious and their language is disgraceful
Sigh... I'll go and have a word
'scuse me girls, would you tone it down please

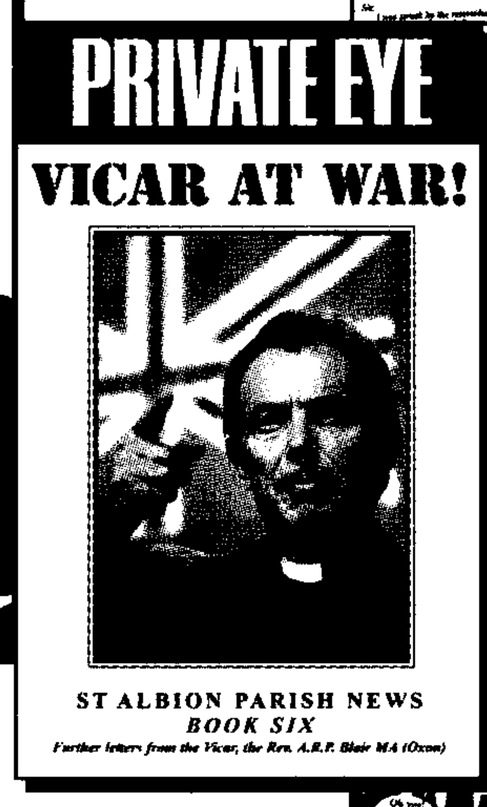
ONLINE ONLINE

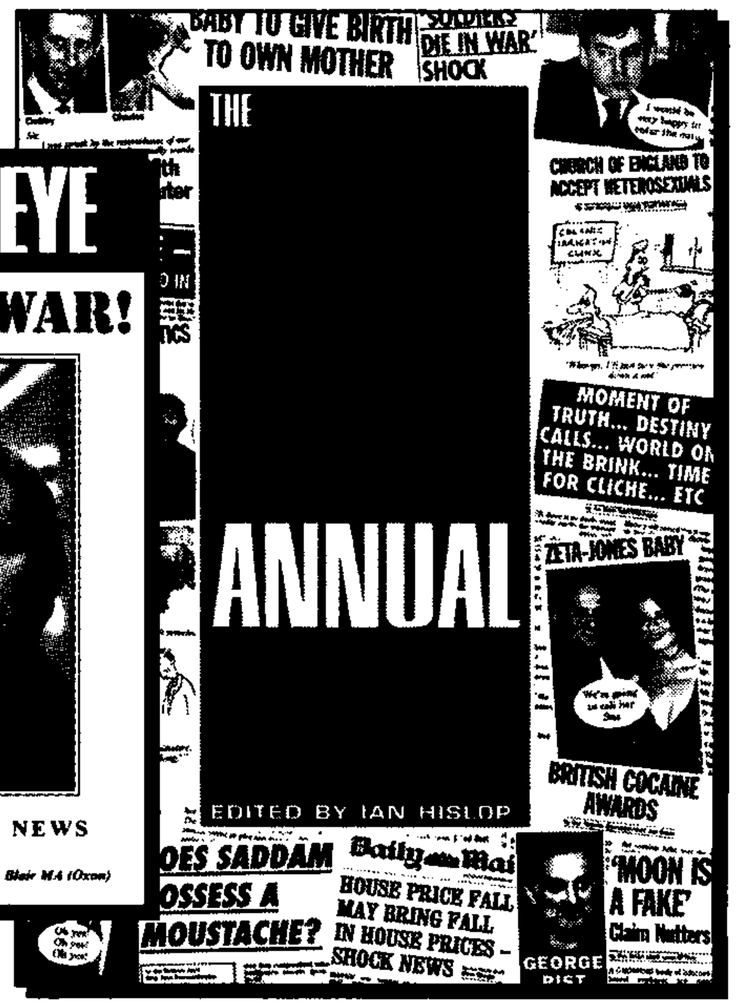
# www.private-eye.co.uk – it's the easy way to order this Christmas...

## ...order Private Eye Books

Click on 'books', then 'Private Eye shop', select your country and click 'go'.

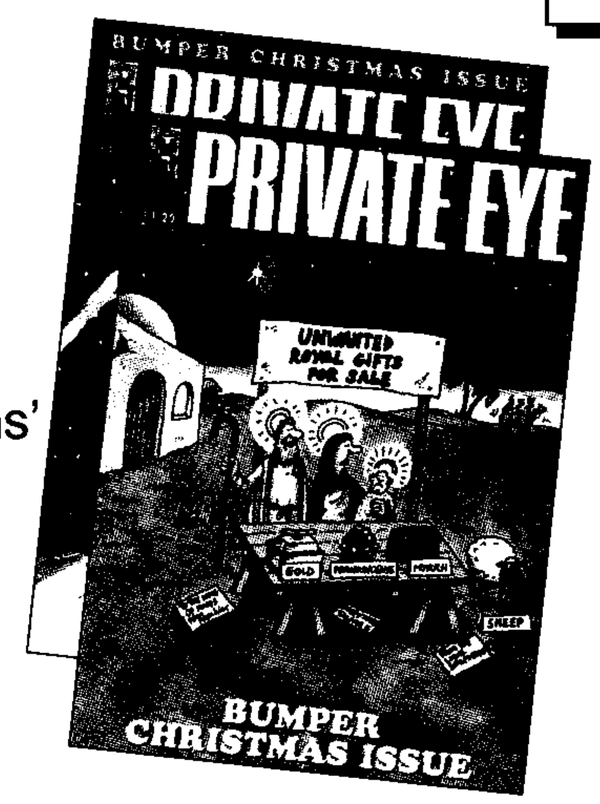

PRIVATE EYE
Mediaballs
I'm a great fan of Iris Murdoch, but I haven't read any of her books
Sadness isn't sadness. It's happiness in a black jacket
Celebrity is the new herpes
Acting is like having a baby, it's like a wedding, it's like jumping out of a plane
Which famous artist painted the Mona Lisa?
Frank Bough





BABY TO GIVE BIRTH TO OWN MOTHER
SOLDIERS DIE IN WAR SHOCK
THE
ANNUAL
EDITED BY IAN HISLOP
CHURCH OF ENGLAND TO ACCEPT HETEROSEXUALS
MOMENT OF TRUTH... DESTINY CALLS... WORLD ON THE BRINK... TIME FOR CLICHE... ETC
ZETA-JONES BABY
BRITISH COCAINE AWARDS
OES SADDAM OSSESS A MOUSTACHE?
Daily Mail
HOUSE PRICE FALL MAY BRING FALL IN HOUSE PRICES – SHOCK NEWS
'MOON IS A FAKE' Claim Nutters
GEORGE PIST

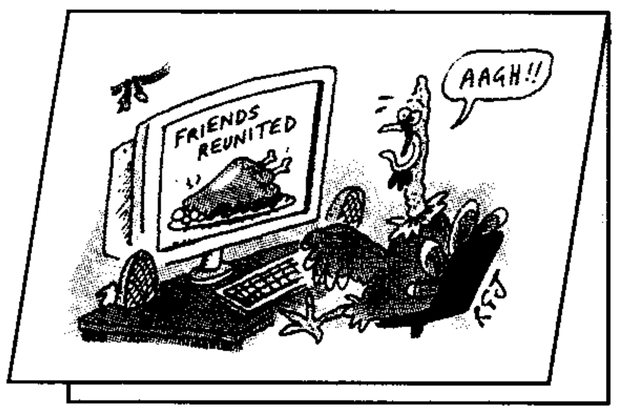
## ...send a Gift Subscription

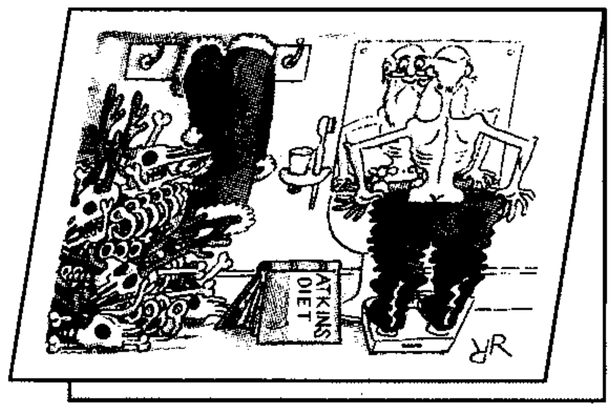
Click on 'subscriptions' then 'Private Eye shop' select your country and click 'go'.




## ...order Private Eye Christmas Cards

Click on 'Christmas cards' then 'Private Eye shop', select your country and click 'go'. Click on the card to view a larger version.



# Alternatively –

**Dial-a-Book: 0870 750 1713**
Quote code: B1092
(Overseas callers: +44 (0) 1795 414 870)

**Dial-a-Card: 0870 750 1713**
Quote code: C1092
(Overseas callers: +44 (0) 1795 414 870)

**Dial-a-Sub: 0870 750 1714**
Quote code: S1092
(Overseas callers: +44 (0) 1795 414 871)

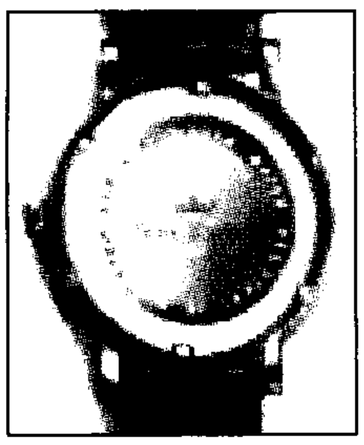
# The look, feel and performance of a timepiece costing thousands

## Wm. Forbes remarkable new Lunar Moonphase Calendar wristwatch at a very special introductory direct price of £139*.

The Lunar Moonphase wristwatch not only tells the time beautifully and in great detail (the passing of each 1/5th of a second is indicated) but also provides (at a glance) the day of the week, the date, the month and the phase of the moon.

All this information is driven by state-of-the-art quartz technology and presented in a finely engineered stainless steel case which is fully water resistant (to 5 atm) and finished with an intricate ribbed bezel and winding crown.

The dial itself is clear, easy to read and classically designed with the various dials in relief on a textured background and notated in classical Roman numerals. The time is indicated by blued steel hands in the traditional clockmakers' design. Finally, the Wm. Forbes name appears on the dial and is engraved on the backplate. The watch glass is of course genuine mineral glass.



The watch strap is fully stitched black leather with a timeless crocodile effect pattern and featuring a robust stainless steel buckle.

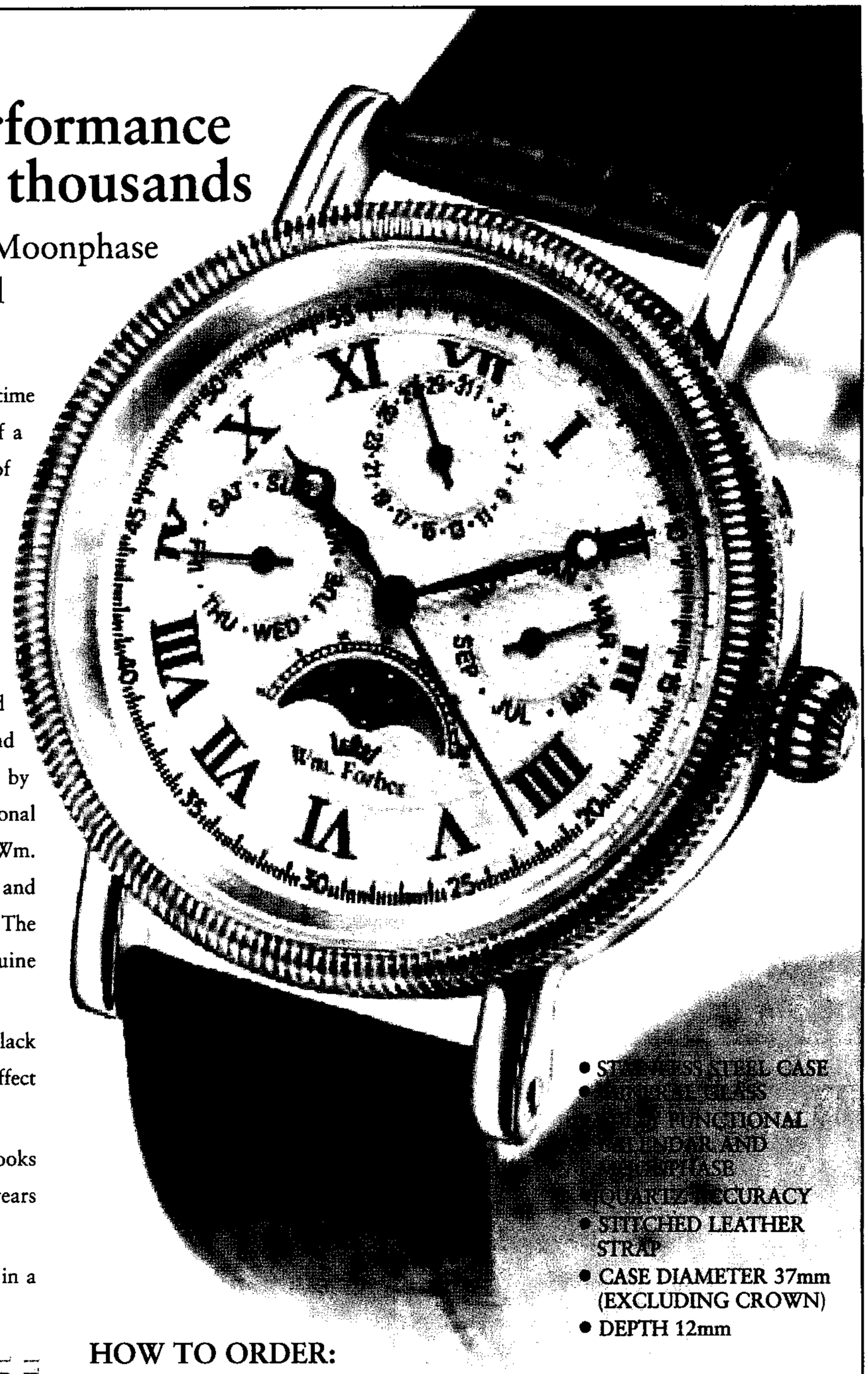
This is truly a classic. It feels solid and finely engineered. It looks superb on the wrist and will become a close friend for many years hence. Wm. Forbes fully guarantee the piece for 2 years.

Your new watch will arrive packaged as you would expect in a sprung satin and felt padded jewellers' presentation box.

*As an extra incentive and completely free with each Lunar Moonphase wristwatch, we will send you the famous Wm. Forbes travel alarm clock. This brass cased clock features a quartz movement with easy to set alarm function. The dial is off-white to complement the black hands and Arabic numerals. It's small, compact and comes complete with its own genuine leather case in black with a brass popper fastening. We normally sell this useful little piece for £35 (plus P&P) but are delighted to offer it (for a limited period only) completely free when you purchase our new Lunar Moonphase wristwatch.*

Wm FORBES
*Clockmaker • Liverpool*

Wm. Forbes Ltd, Unit 19, Sefton Lane Industrial Estate,
Maghull, Liverpool, L31 8BX.




## HOW TO ORDER:

**Priority Phone Line 0870 752 2444.** Lines are open 8am to 5pm Mon-Fri, 10am to 4pm Sat, and Sunday during busy periods.

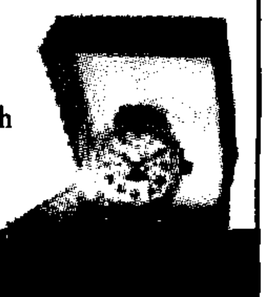
**Post completed coupon below** to: Wm. Forbes Ltd, Unit 19, Sefton Lane Industrial Estate, Maghull, Liverpool, L31 8BX.

**Fax completed coupon on 0151 526 4455,** please include a number we can contact you on in case of transmission problems.

Please allow up to 28 days for delivery.

**Postage and packing** = £5 and includes packaging, insurance, safe delivery and UK VAT. (UK mainland only)

**7 days money back warranty.** If for any reason you are not entirely satisfied with your new watch, we will gladly exchange it or refund your money (excluding carriage) if you return it to us within 7 days in perfect condition.



Please send me_____(qty) Lunar Moonphase Calendar Watches
at £139.00 each plus postage and packing of £5.00 = Total £144.00
I enclose my cheque payable to Wm. Forbes Ltd for the sum of £
Or debit my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Switch

Card Number ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

Expiry Date ☐☐☐☐ Signature_____
Mr/Mrs/Ms_____ Initial_____ Surname_____
Tel No_____ Address_____
_____
_____
Postcode_____ Code: LMPE3110

Return to: Wm. Forbes Ltd, Unit 19, Sefton Lane Industrial Estate, Maghull, Liverpool, L31 8BX

# NO MORE 'BUSY FOOL!'

## Working all hours?
## Disappointed with results?

*Obeng's books are an antidote to the dryness of much managerial theorising.'*
Financial Times

## Two New Books plus Application Workshops from Dr. Eddie Obeng

**Buy Books NOW from:** Amazon.co.uk
**Register for workshops NOW at:**
www.PentacleTheVBS.com/bookonline.htm
Tel: +44 (0) 1494 678 555
E-Mail:
No.Fool@PentacleTheVBS.com

PENTACLE



# Feeling off colour?

**Have your waters turned green?**
Don't make an appointment with your G.P.
Use Floatron!

A proven success worldwide, Floatron will prevent your pool and pond water turning green, minimise maintenance to around ten minutes each week, and save you 80% on chemical costs.

It is the only solar powered portable pool and pond purifier that's the size of a Frisbee and comes with a two-year warranty. It costs nothing to fit and works well with a pool cover.

**See customer testimonials and answers to FAQ's at www.floatron.co.uk**

And there is still time to ionize your pool before winter. Winterizing and start up chemicals will not be necessary and half the cost of a Floatron can be saved. Our accountants inform us that from next month we must charge VAT on Floatrons!

Call **01256 770246** or email **info@floatron.co.uk** to place an order or to request your brochure and free CD.

Yours,

Richard Gibbins
Floatron UK
Agents for AquaMat Pool Covers and Accessories at discounted prices.

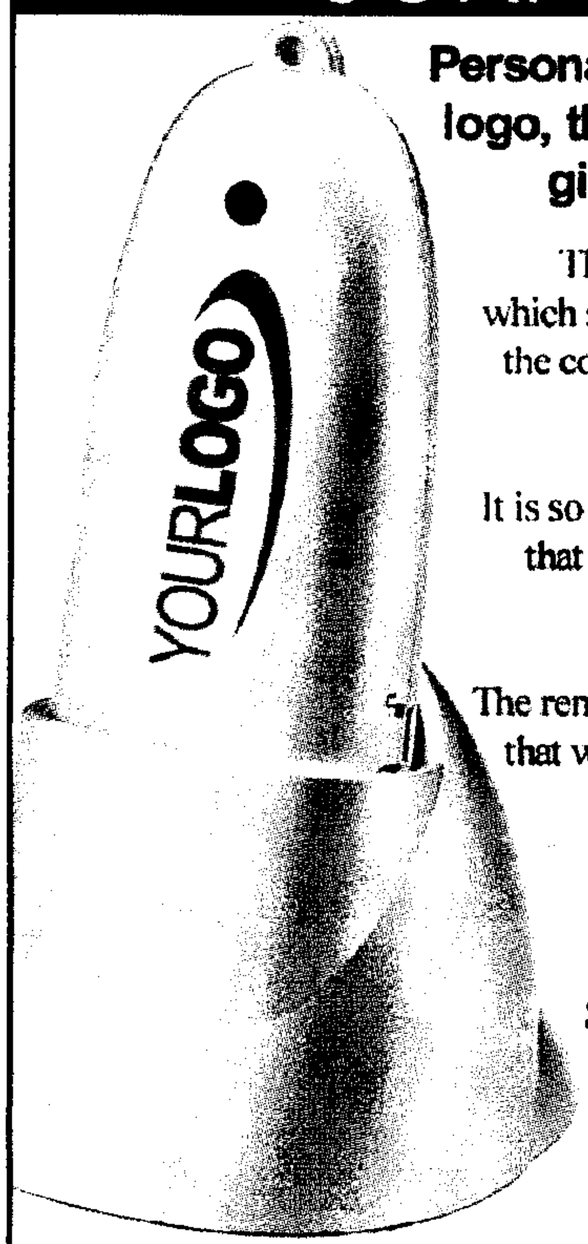
PS. If you're using Floatron in your pond when your pool is closed, please contact us for instructions. Existing Private Eye Floatron owners please read opening/ closing instructions.

floatron®

**£250** incl p+p



# THE **ULTIMATE** CORPORATE GIFT




**Personalised with your company logo, the PenDrive is the perfect gift for your clients or staff.**

The PenDrive is a plug & play device which simply plugs into any USB port and the computer automatically detects it as a removable drive.

It is so compact (size of a cigarette lighter) that you can carry it with you anywhere and hardly notice its existence!

The removable PenDrive is a powerful tool that will be used daily by your clients for both business and personal use.

**> Prices from £29** +VAT*
**> Quantities from as low as 20 units undertaken**

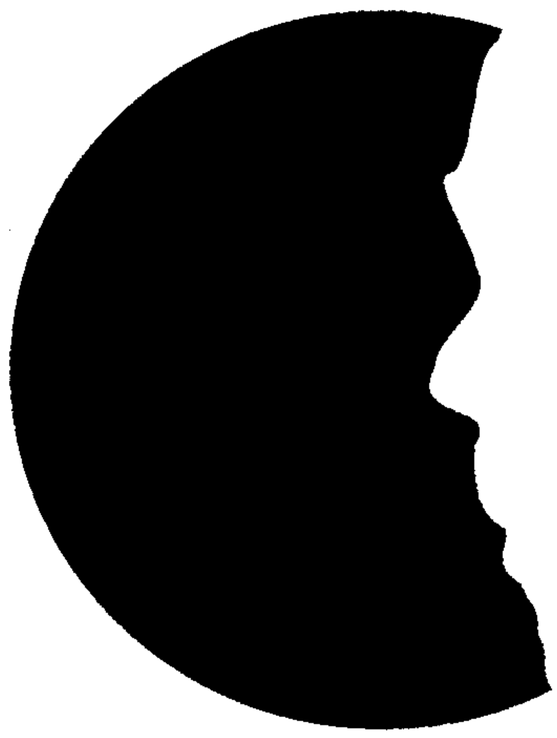
* 64MB USB 2.0 version with Docking Station

*Contents: PenDrive (Silver), Presentation Box, Docking Station, Neck Strap, USB Extension Lead, CD*

Jade tec
Sales 0113 281 1488
fax 0870 138 4213
sales@jadetec.co.uk
www.jadetec.co.uk



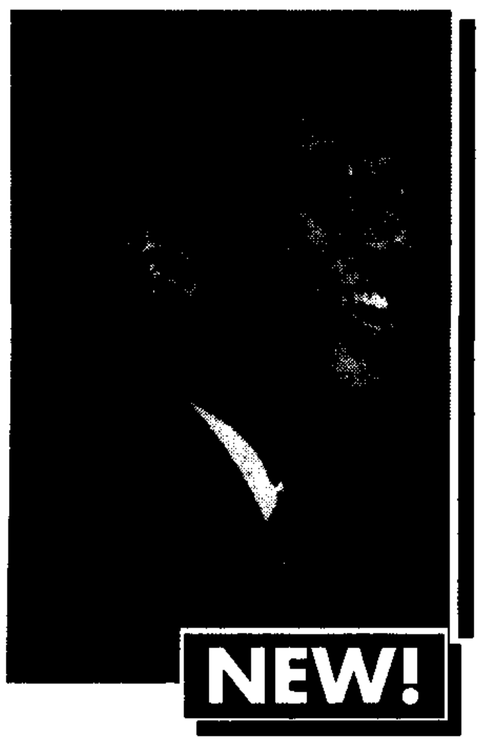
# Jobs come easy at...



# Duncan-Smith
# RECRUITMENT
# ids-recruit.co.uk
# 0208 747 4554

## The Remains Of...

# Tom Lehrer




Tom Lehrer's songs and performances are famous for a generous sprinkling of irreverent wit and humour. His sardonic and often controversial observations on life are guaranteed to entertain and amuse for hours on end. Here is the essential Tom Lehrer! Classically trained on the piano, Tom's musical versatility perfectly complements his unique lyrical ability!

### 74 Memorable Recordings In One Collection!

This huge collection is packed with studio recordings and live performances, Tom's collaborations with other musicians and orchestras, and trademark favourites such as ***The Masochism Tango, Oedipus Rex*** and ***Who's Next?*** The special selections here are a living breathing commentary on topical issues and human idiosyncrasy! It really is an unmissable opportunity to own this tribute to a legend of satirical comedy!

### 3 CDs Plus... 80 Page Hard-Cover Book!

Each of three CDs with original graphics, and with accompanying notes, provide a fascinating insight into one of an era's legendary performers!

***Be Prepared • Poisoning Pigeons In The Park • Fight Fiercely, Harvard • We Will All Go Together When We Go • The Old Dope Peddler • The Wild West Is Where I Want To Be • I Wanna To Go Back To Dixie • I Hold Your Hand In Mine • The Masochism Tango • Lobachevsky • The Irish Ballad • The Hunting Song • When You Are Old And Grey • My Home Town • The Wiener Schnitzel Waltz • Bright College Days • A Christmas Carol • The Elements • Oedipus Rex • In Old Mexico • Clementine • I Got It From Agnes • That's Mathematics • National • Brotherhood Week • MLF Lullaby • George Murphy • The Fold Song Army • Smut • Send The Marines • Pollution • So Long Mom • Whatever Became Of Hurbert? • New Math • Alma • Who's Next? • The Vatican Rag • L-Y • Silent - E • O-U (The Hound Song) • S-N (Snore, Sniff and Sneeze) • N Apostrophe T • Selling Out • (I'm Spending) Hanukah In Santa Monica*** ...and more!

**Music & Memories**

**Music & Memories, Dept. M2720, Hays House, Box 99, St. Austell, Cornwall PL25 3YD.**

Goods are normally despatched within 10 days.
Please allow 28 days before querying your order.

MOPS protection only covers the direct ordering of product(s) advertised at the price(s) specified in this advertisement

## www.goodmusic.co.uk

**100% MONEY BACK GUARANTEE**

Enjoy this collection for a full 30 days. If you are not completely satisfied, you may return it for a full and immediate refund. No questions asked!

**Music & Memories, (Dept. M2720), Hays House, Box 99, St Austell, Cornwall PL25 3YD.**

Yes, please rush me the **"Tom Lehrer"** collection. I understand that I may return my purchase within 30 days for any reason and receive a full refund if not completely satisfied.

❒ 2079C 3 CDs **£34.95** + £2.95 p&p = £37.90

❒ Cheque/Postal Order enclosed for £_____ made payable to **Music & Memories.**

❒ Charge my VISA/MasterCard/Switch/American Express

Card No. _____

Start Date _____ Exp. Date _____ Switch Issue No. _____

Signature _____

Name _____
PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS

Address _____

_____

Postcode _____

If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from other organisations carefully selected by us please tick box. ☐ Haysbridge (UK) Ltd. t/a Music & Memories Reg. No. 2771545

© Haysbridge (UK) Ltd. 2003

★ STOCKBROKERS • DOCTORS • ADVERTISING • ACCOUNTANTS • ARCHITECTS ★

MARKETING • DESIGNERS

EDUCATIONALISTS • WRITERS

# drawing down *the* moon

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION CONSULTANTS - THE FIRST AND FINEST

*"a partner for life...that's where Drawing Down the Moon comes in"*
FINANCIAL TIMES

020-7937 6263
*www.drawingdownthemoon.co.uk*
*Head Office:* Adam & Eve Mews, Kensington. *City Office:* Cannon Street
24 hours. Member ABIA. Est. 1984

★ MEDIA COMPANY DIRECTORS • LAWYERS • PR • BANKERS • SCIENTISTS ★

---

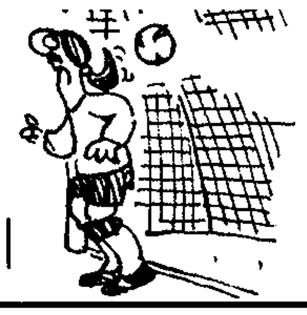
# a cartoon is not just for christmas...

the cartoon gallery can now be found exclusively at www.cartoongallery.co.uk

hundreds of original published cartoons by britain's top cartoonists all available to buy.

...but they do make a unique christmas gift

for themed cartoons search the subject index



football

viewing appointments can be made at
gosh! 39 great russell street, london wc1b 3ph
tel: 020 7636 1011 fax: 020 7436 5053
email: cartoongallery@easynet.co.uk

---

The
# Blue Angel Club

welcomes you and your friends for a really unforgettable evening. Drink, or dine and dance in luxurious surroundings and be served or entertained by our Angels.

**Open Monday to Friday from 6.30pm until late**

Membership not required.

17 Little Portland Street, London W1N 5DE Tel: 020 7636 2178

---

# HEART HUNTING

**SPECIALIST SEARCH**
**MATCHING HEARTS & MINDS**
**"CARPE DIEM" - SEIZE THE DAY!**

**www.hearthunting.com**

**TEL: +44 (0)20 7590 3157** **FAX: +44 (0)20 7590 9601**

**64 KNIGHTSBRIDGE LONDON SW1X 7JF**

---

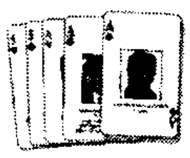
**Sprintz | £20.00**

Best Selling drinks game 2003! Sprintz is an electronic timer guaranteed to get any party going.

**R/C Stealth Bomber | £69.99**

Great gift for kids - The radio controlled stealth bomber is the next generation R/C airplane.

**Iraqi Playing Cards | £4.00**



Brilliant card fun with the 'famous 52' Gulf playing cards. Another top seller.

**Orgasmatron | £14.00**

Super relaxation gift for a loved one. Our office cat loves it so why not get one for the pussy in your life!

ENJOY

www.enjoy.co.uk

0870 242 1808

boys toys | office stuff
adult fun | gifts

---

# THE WORLD OF NASRUDIN by Idries Shah

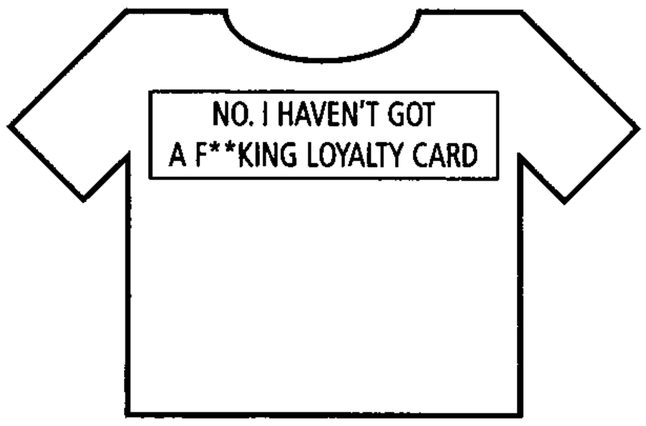
NO EARS, NO CRIME One day, the judge asked Nasrudin to help him solve a legal problem.
'How would you suggest I punish a slanderer?'
'Cut off the ears of all who listen to his lies,' the Mulla replied.

Hardback 0 863040 86 1 450pp £14.95

OCTAGON PRESS ( Dept. 16 ), P.O.Box 227, London N6 4EW
Tel: (020) 8348 9392 www.octagonpress.com

---

# A T-SHIRT FOR TODAY'S SHOPPING




**fatlooby T-SHIRTS**

TOP QUALITY 100% COTTON. S/M/L/XL/XXL.
£14.99 + £2.00 p&p. ALLOW 21 DAYS FOR DELIVERY.
CHEQUES PAYABLE TO fatlooby. PO BOX 162.
ST LEONARDS ON SEA. EAST SUSSEX. TN38 0ZL
TEL 01424 443212 07990 594598

---

To reach over
# 600,000
potential customers
please call
David Lancaster on
**020 7878 2316**
or Carol Imlay on
**020 7878 2303**
to discuss advertising in
# PRIVATE EYE

---

**DO YOU *REALLY* KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON?**

***SUSPECT SOMETHING'S GOING ON? FIND OUT - WITHOUT BEING FOUND OUT!***

Disloyalty can be dangerous. It's often damaging and invariably hurtful. Commercially, it's usually expensive. You may not like the idea of using 'bugging' equipment but it can heighten your awareness and help you anticipate. You'll be amazed how we conceal microphones and tiny cameras in the most innocent and ordinary everyday objects.

**LORRAINE ELECTRONICS SURVEILLANCE**
716 Lea Bridge Road, London E10 6AW.
*Fax: 020 8558 1338*
*Central London Showroom:*
59 South Audley Street, W1K 2QN
*Web Site:* www.lorraine.co.uk
**TEL: 020 8558 4226**

---

# BIRTHDAY NEWSPAPERS

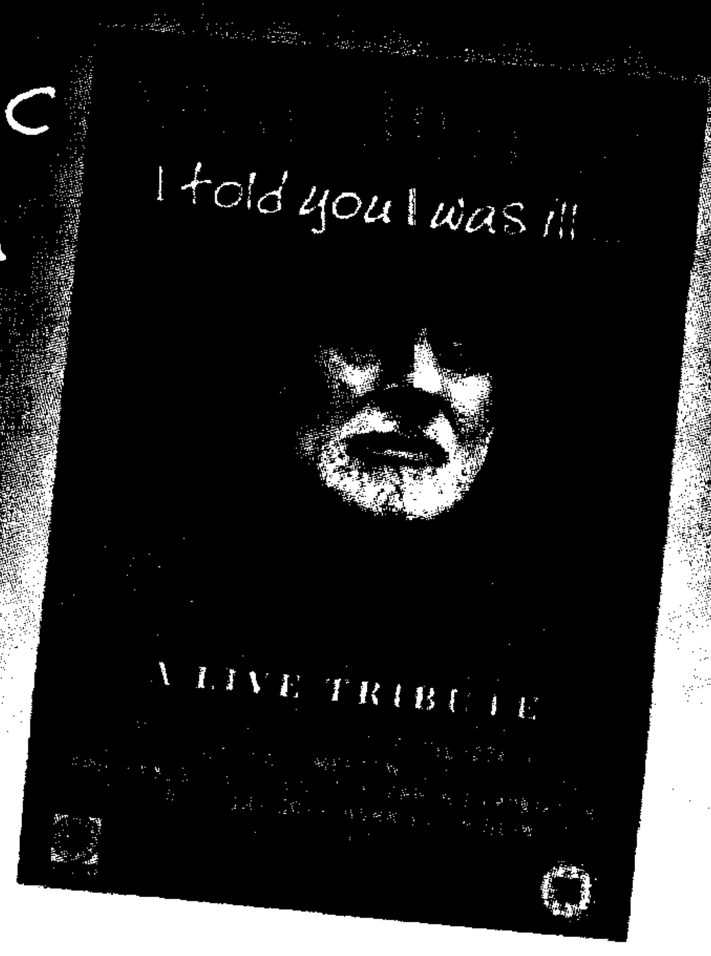
Births, Birthdays, Weddings, Christenings, Anniversaries, Retirements. Papers from archives 1642-2003. Sundays from 1915. Quality presentations. Same day dispatch.

**REMEMBER WHEN**
445 Brighton Road,
Croydon, Surrey CR2 6EU
www.remember-when.co.uk

**020 8763 6363**
**or call FREE 0500 520 000**

# I told you I was ill ...

An unforgettable selection of comic highlights from the life of Milligan




Harry Enfield, Eddie Izzard, Terry Jones, Paul Merton, Michael Palin, Eric Sykes, Kathy Burke, Stephen Tompkinson, Cleo Lane, The Johnny Dankworth Quintet and John Sargeant

ODYSSEY

**DVD on Sale from 27th October 2003**

All producer royalties donated to the Square Smiles charity.

**£12.99**

**OM SAI RAM**

# MEASURE MADE TO

BESPOKE SUITS & SHIRTS

**WORLD'S** leading ladies & gents custom tailor is now offering like Savile Row Suits from **£1XX.00** and Shirts from **£1X.00**. For an appointment please call **MR. RAJA DASWANI** Chief Designer and Professional Fashion Adviser to measure you personally and show you thousands of world famous fabrics and latest fashion magazines from Business, Leisure and Evening wear at the following venues:

## RAJA'S SPECIAL OFFER

| MEN | LADIES |
|---|---|
| 1 Super Fine Wool Suit | 1 Wool Suit |
| 1 Blazer or Sports Jacket | 2 Blouses / Shirts |
| 1 Matching pair of Slacks | |
| 2 Silk Ties | |
| All from **£188** before custom duties and VAT | All from **£248** after custom duties and VAT |

**Raja Fashions**
Email: raja@raja-fashions.com
URL: http://www.raja-fashions.com
Tel: (852) 2366 7624 Fax: (852) 2369 2807

## Come along for a fitting

**London**
Sheraton Park Tower Hotel
101 Knightsbridge, London
SW1X 7RN
Nov 3-9, Dec 1-7
Tel: 0207-235-8050

**London**
Novotel London Tower Bridge
10 Pepys Street, London
EC3N 2NR, UK
Nov 10-11, Dec 8-9
Tel: 020-7265-6000

**London**
London Hilton Paddington Hotel
146 Praed Street, London
W2 1EE, UK
Nov 10-11, Dec 8-9
Tel: 0207-850-0500

**London**
London Four Seasons Hotel
46 Westferry Circus
Canary Wharf, London, E14 8RS, UK
Nov 12-13, Dec 10-11
Tel: 020-7510-1999

**Birmingham**
Hyatt Regency Birmingham
2 Bridge Street, Birmingham B1 2JZ
Nov 12-13, Dec 10-11
Tel: 0121-643-1234

**Manchester**
Renaissance Manchester Hotel
Blackfriars Street, Manchester
M3 2EQ, Great Manchester
Nov 14-15, Dec 12-13
Tel: 0161-835-2555

*SCOTLAND*
**Aberdeen**
Ramada Jervis Hotel
Market Street, Aberdeen AB11 5EL
Nov 3-4
Tel: 01224-582255

**Edinburgh**
George Inter Continental Edinburgh
19-21 George Street, Edinburgh
EH2 2PB, Scotland
Nov 5-6
Tel: 01312-251-251

**Glasgow**
Hilton Glasgow
1 William Street, Glasgow
G3 8HT, Scotland
Nov 7-8
Tel: 0141-204-5555

**Belfast**
Belfast Holiday Inn
22 Ormeau Avenue Belfast, BT2 8HS
Nov 14-15
Tel: 02890-328511

*Cardiff*
Cardiff Hilton Hotel
Kingsway, Cardiff, CF10 3HH
Nov 14-15, Dec 14-15
Tel: 029-20646309

*Bristol*
Bristol Marriott Hotel
City Centre, 2 Lower Castle Street
Old Market, Bristol BS1 3AD,UK
Nov 16-17, Dec 12-13
Tel: 0117-929-4281

Appointments can also be booked in the UK on Mob: 077865 432 58 or 01635574233

# PRIVATE EYE

## CLASSIFIED
## 020 7240 9129

**£2.50 per word (£25 min charge)**
**Colour box £12 Box number £12**
**All charges VAT inclusive**

**Deadline for next issue: November 4th**

**You can email your ad to:**
**private-eye@mcmslondon.co.uk**
**or fax: 020 7379 7118**

Reply to Box Numbers at address below:
Private Eye,
McMillan-Scott,
10 Savoy Street
London WC2E 7HR

## EYE ART

**ART CONSULTANT** to advise catalogue and manage private collection. 07931 117911. Email: oliviac@fsmail.net

**AFFORDABLE MODERN ART,** direct. Collected young London artist. Call 0771 4399277.

**NOT AMUSED?** Let the Queen envelope you with laughter for just £3.00 funnyenvelopes.co.uk

**ARTIST** (original paintings, drawings) seeks buyers. Galleries, exhibitions: www.painterre.com.

## EYE COLLECT

**PLEASURE AND INVESTMENT.** Autographs and memorabilia. Call Europe's largest dealer - Freephone 0800 731 0852 or www.frasersautographs.com

**OLD FOOTBALL PROGRAMMES** wanted. (Pre-1960s) CASH PAID. Telephone: 020 8306 2194. Email: david.sturge@btopenworld.com

## EYE DETECT

**LINK INVESTIGATIONS.** Private and commercial investigators for all areas Tel: 01306 880707 Fax: 01306 888077. Email: info@linkinvestigations.co.uk - Web site: www.linkinvestigations.co.uk

## EYE NOVELTIES

**BIRTHDAY** Newspapers FREEPHONE 0800 906609 www.historic-newspapers.co.uk

**6 FOOT PHOTOBANNERS** – £39.95. 0121 241 7878 – www.ctgraphics.co.uk

**ANDY WARHOL-STYLE** Personalised Portraits – "The Ideal Gift" – www.justlikeandy.com

**EYE SEDUCE** The art of seduction? Dig where the gold is, unless you need the exercise...! www.kouloura.com

**KINGDOM OF MUGG** with Song of Baloney –www.authorsonline.co.uk/authors2001/bidd01/king01 download him.

**"WHAT A BRILLIANT SITE!"** Shop for fun @ www.gizmoandwidget.com

**PERSONALISED CHAMPAGNE** your unique message printed on the label delivered NEXTDAY nationwide £35 0800 583 8000 – www.nextdaychampagne.co.uk

**TITLES – LORD, LADY** etc. Tel/Fax 0800 652 6641. www.elitetitles.co.uk

**CARICATURES** from photos. Caricaturist at PARTIES. www.blazerman.co.uk – 020 8449 1368.

**"A SPECIAL PRESENT** for a special person" www.name-your-own-rose.com

**www.BrownPaper.co.uk** – adult toys, sexy wear and naughties!

**PROMOTE...** Your Product... Your Business... YOURSELF with full colour postcards at competitive prices. For sample pack phone 020 7737 7766 or E-mail: cardencounters@btclick.com

**THE GIFT OF SATIRE:** a book for all seasons. www.lovetritt.ralphtritt.com

**MUGS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.** Find them at www.poisonmugs.co.uk

**BUTTON BADGES MADE.** Any design, any quantity, call Express Badges. 01634 321403 / 07092/123857

**WWW.MAILORGAN.COM** - unique glass gift. Everybody wants a big one!

**FOR THE SPORTS LOVER** "Play The Game" CD, £10.99 www.justaccordmusic.com

**DIRTY KNICKERS**. Cheeky underwear for dirty minds. Perfect gift from £5.00 www.dirtyknickersonline.co.uk

**MAGIC BY POST**, free catalogue. Tel: 01179 774 334 website magicbypost.com

**FAMILY ARCHIVE** photos converted to stereoscopic (3-D); details from journal@beeb.net

**GIFTS FOR THE REDHEAD** in your life - www.redandproud.com - Tel: 01844 274635

## EYE BET

**PUNTERS.** Tired of being fleeced? www.sport-fair.com

**TOP TIPS** from a top tipster - www.ukhorseracingtips.info

## EYE DINE

**BILL O'HAGAN** is winner of Britain's "Best Sausage Maker" award. That's why his website is called: topsausages.com - visit it.

## EYE ESCAPE

**ESCAPE FROM YOUR LIFE?** www.codenamespy.co.uk

**ADVENTURES WITH ALICE** – traditional Thames Sailing Barge near Tower Bridge. www.lookingglasscharters.com

**18 MINUTES** to spare? Le Touquet daily flights from Lydd Airport 01797 320000 – www.lyddair.com

**TREK IN AMERICA** Custom Tours Holidays – www.suntrek.com Tel: 0845 330 3730

**SELECTED PROPERTIES** for like(wise) people and at real prices. www.vergel-alpujarra.com – the Sierra Nevada Park Specialists.

**THE BEST VILLA** in Florida – Allegedly. Beautiful large villa 10 mins from Disney, 20 mins from airport, sleeps 10, own private pool, overlooking lake. From £500pw. 0161 775 7676 or www.sunridgevilla.co.uk

**13TH C MANOR HOUSEPARTIES / REUNIONS.** Sleeps 24. Tennis/Swimming. Services as required. Idyllic setting Somerset/Devon border. Tel 0870 752 4501 - www.gerbestonemanor.com

**DOES YOUR TRAVEL AGENT KNOW THEIR ARSOLI FROM THEIR ELBERT?** Unique service: we try providing what you want! 01423 867226. ksales@ryedaletravel.co.uk, ABTA 28716.6

**TRULY AUSTRALIA** truly different. Tailor-make your own holiday. Visit www.trulyAustralia.com

**BEACH HOLIDAYS BORING?** Chamonix-Mont-Blanc climbing courses. www.icicle-mountaineering.ltd.uk 07980 310 253

**IRELAND. BERE ISLAND** West Cork, escape for Christmas/New Year to rugged beauty of West Cork. Newly renovated cottage with all services. Sleeps 5, daily/weekly lets. Available immediately. Tel: 00353 2775987

**ESCAPE TO ARDNAMURCHAN** mainland Britain's most westerly point. www.steading.co.uk

**EXPERIENCED THE MALVERNS YET?** Clear air and pure water. Try the real thing at Colwall Park Hotel Malvern - Courtesy & Care Award. Restaurant of the Year Award. Gourmet breaks from £75.00 pppn 2+ nts. 01684 540000 - www.colwall.com

**TENBY, PEMBROKESHIRE** Luxury beachside cottages, hunting lodge & manor house, sleeps 2-14. Escape from just £50 per person for 4 days. Tel: 01834 870 000.

**TANDEM SKYDIVE** & Gift Vouchers direct from the UK's leading Skydiving Centre www.skydivesibson.com

## EYE FINANCE

**WE INCORPORATE** companies UK and Overseas. Tel: 01306 888542. www.formacompany.com/pe

**WELL-CONNECTED**, well-off iconoclast sought to give satirical corporate ethics cartoon/column a higher profile. Currently published in specialist business magazine to saintly, humourless audience. 01273 462129. www.kinethics.com

**I AM AN EXPERIENCED** producer and SFX person who has spent lots of Mr MBNA's money on making a pre-title sequence for my Sci-fi alien comedy feature on 35mm and getting together high quality marketing material - this is a full time obession. If you are interested in Sale and Leaseback and EIS tax breaks and in funding genuinely talented individuals who are 'this' serious please contact me: helenpitcher@onetel.net.uk

**PAYSLIPS** - computer generated to your exact specifications: Confidential, discreet. 07770 474445

**UNSECURED LOANS** £1,000 to £25,000 CCJ's / defaults considered, tenants / home owners. Please write with requirements to: P R S Finance, 415 Silk House, Park Green, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11

**COMPANY FORMATIONS** and trade mark registrations (UK/offshore) Contact: City Legal Services, 31 Pitfield Street, London, N1 6HB. Tel: 020 7324 0189 Fax: 020 7490 4333. Email: CLS@gildersons.co.uk

## EYE FLY

**FLIGHT** (Hotel, cruise & Car Hire) OPTIONS. ATOL 3793 PROTECTED. Phone or Fax Henry Rogers – 01432 850722.

## EYE HELP

**SPEECHWRITING BY BRITAIN'S** LEADING PROFESSIONAL. Laughter fully guaranteed! Corporate, Social, Political. Strictly confidential. Visa/Mastercard. Call MITCH MURRAY – 01624 622660.

**PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY** CLAIMS. Lost out due to bad advice? Why don't you sue your adviser? Contact GORVINS SOLICITORS and we'll do it for you. FREEPHONE 0800 214531 or E-mail enquiries@gorvins.com

**LET DOWN BY** Sue, Grabbit and Runne? Don't let them get away with it. Professional negligence claims on a no win no fee basis. Freephone 08000 523620 or visit www.proneg.co.uk

**AD NAUSEAM?** Campaign relief. Go direct to the creatives for great ads. Call Mick on 020 8985 3961.

**EYE DESIGN** for small businesses. Unique packages to suit your budget. Logos, stationery, websites, brochures. Think size matters? Telephone 0870 2418229 – www.thebusiness.uk.com

**DIVORCE: £200 + VAT** and court fees. Anywhere in the UK. Call The Family Law Dept. at McKay Solicitors on 0113 236 4626

**ACCOMMODATION** address private, discreet, confidential mail/message-holding service, REGENT STREET. Established 1979. 020 7580 4242. E-mail: enquiry@hold-everything.com - www.hold-everything.com

**DEBT PROBLEMS?** Creditors chasing? (you, friends, relatives) Take off the pressure with a reduced monthly repayment. (not a loan offer) Tel: 01926 312894/07876 025822 (Eurodebt)

**AMSTERDAM MAILING ADDRESS.** Reliable, confidential & discreet. Mail forwarded or processed as required. Address never advertised. Contact Box 70855

**VIDEO/CINE** converted to DVD. £20 per disc - www.dvdconvert.co.uk - 01765 640223

**SORT IT!** Obsessive-compulsive organises files, archives, libraries. Business or personal, computer or paper. Free quote. 07771 562863 - sorted@meister.com

## EYE LEARN

**ACCREDITED** University Degree based present status www.trinityinternationalcu.com (message) 0161 203 4013.

## EYE EARN

**www.plusmoney.co.uk**

**UPMARKET MLM BUSINESS** opportunity. Established worldwide, now taking off in the UK. Rapid growth anticipated. Strongly recommended joining early to maximise massive earnings potential. Very low start-up cost. Freephone 0800 542 0437

**WWW.PLUSMONEY.CO.UK**

**BE A CARTOONIST** - Established Home Study Course will show you how to earn money from your cartoons. Free prospectus: 0870 3003 234. www.cartoonacademy.co.uk

**WRITE BETTER** in one day. Seven-hour course that will help improve skills for budding reporters, PRs, or general-interest writers. London-based, Saturdays. Details: writebetter@arnoldstrategy.com

## EYE MOVES

**MOVING STUFF.** Transit couriers and light removals professional, insured. 020 7622 0511.

**SMALL MOVES.** Friendly man with Transit. Based N. E. London. Jim, 07974 392 829

## EYE HOMES

**BUY OUR COTTAGE** in Windsor for your home or investment. www.cottageinwindsor.co.uk

**ALGARVE** 2-bed detached villa £87,500; Studio apartment with s/pool £45,500. Please telephone: 0035 3123 52195 info@algarvesunproperties.com

**SUITE COMFORT** Traditional upholstery restoration, storage available. www.suitecomfort.demon.co.uk

# EYE HEAR

**JUKEBOX PARTY HIRE.** CDs and/or 7" vinyl. Including ROCKOLA BUBBLER. £150+ delivered. 020 8318 2852 – www.wce-jukeboxes.co.uk

# EYE READ

**OUT OF PRINT BOOKS FOUND** – free search. No obligation to purchase – 01376 562334. E-mail: Jeremy.Dore@tesco.net

**FREE BOOKSEARCH** - No purchase obligation. Twiggers Booksearch - 020 8878 8644. booksearch@twiggers.com

**WWW.ICEHOUSEBOOKS.CO.UK** We buy and sell your kind of books 0116 292 1964

**THEATRE WORLD** 1942-65. Plays & Players 1968-80. Few missing. Many bound. Offers: paulmaitland@yahoo.com 01892 548333

# EYE SELL

**OLD PERSIAN RUGS** – mostly £100 - £3000. Shed not shop – telephone first. DESMOND NORTH, East Peckham, Kent. 01622 871353.

**www.housecontents4sale.co.uk** House and Contents for sale. Everything must go.

**DON'T BE CAUGHT** out in a blackout Personal lighting technology from www.wavicle.biz. Ideal Christmas gifts.

**RUSSIAN WATCHES** catalogue available. Tel (0115) 9827741. www.russianwatches.co.uk

**NEED A NEW HI-FI?** For anything from DVD to Minidisc, surround sound to CD – nip down to RICHER SOUNDS and pick up the lowest-priced gear in the UK... GUARANTEED! For a free bargain-packed catalogue, call 0845 1 300 200

**TELEPHONES. ANTIQUE** , Fun, Designer. Kiosks. Sold/Bought. www.telephonelines.net. 01242 583699.

**8MM CINE** converted to UK or USA DVD or video format! High quality telecine conversion, not a film-botched job. Fully boxed with photo quality labels. An excellent and original Christmas or anniversary gift. Limited capacity left guaranteeing before Christmas delivery. www.video2cd.co.uk

**CASINO BLACKJACK.** Intellectual property for sale. Lucrative opportunity. Information / prospectus 01983 407769.

**19 YEARS OF EYES 1979-97** complete set, Offers (+ postage of £10) for set. david@hrose54.freeserve.co.uk

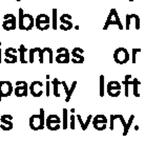
**DONEGAL PEAT** (or log) fire this Xmas. 12x20 kg bags, £120 delivered. Ph 02890 838111 anytime.

**EVERYTHING YOU NEED** cheap computers, credit cards, web-hosting, loans, domain names, software. www.pc-tools.biz

**PRIVATE EYE** no's 11-20 inclusive. Excellent condition, offers to garymitchell@myrealbox.com

**COLIN CAMPBELL'S** local radio humour from the Scottish Highlands. Tapes, CDs, Videos, DVD's. 'A gentle satire on Highlands rural life' - Scotsman Tel: 01343 815719

# EYE SAY



**COULD YOU BE A SPY?** Want to leave your old life behind? The BBC is offering you the chance to train as an intelligence officer. Log on to www.codenamespy.co.uk or call 0207 241 9302

**CAPITAINE** missing you and thinking of Justin. LoveSous-fifre

**"ARE YOU HIP?** WWW.THEHIPLIST.CO.UK"

**LIZ TAYLOR** is fifty. Pasta best? No! Love you, Jerry

# EYE WANT

**WANT A NEW LIFE?** www.codenamespy.co.uk

**SPERM DONOR** required by childless couple. Confidentiality assured. E-mail: donorsearch@hotmail.com

**A BUDDY WITH MONEY.** Plumbing background and wanting to down tools and get into management. New young market, loads of potential. Reply Box 71302

**WET GIRL WANTED** urgently for bath time fun. How did it start for you? Photo appreciated. Box 71306

# EYE LOVE

**CONSIDERATE, SENSUAL** black male, 32 seeks tall, affectionate female, 25-40. Reply Box 70012

**MALE, HANDSOME** mid 50s, looks younger, unattached, stylish, well dressed, educated, intelligent, refined, T.T., loyal, trustworthy, kind, submissive, nice guy, OHAC. Seeks younger dominant female, any age, modern outlook, open minded discreet, for sub/dom fun/games, possible relationship. Can accommodate N. Ireland. Box 70835

**SLIM MALE,** 39, student, seeks female with SOH for gymnastics and coffee. friedbadger@hotmail.com

# EYE CARE

**ERECTION CORRECTION TABLETS,** cheapest on earth! www.generic-viagras.com

**CITY HYPNOTHERAPY CENTRE** – Smoking, weight, stress and more 020 7907 4640 – www.cityhypno.com

**VIAGRA ALTERNATIVE.** Famous Blue Pill available without prescription, as featured in the national press. Only £29.99 for 8 tablets (plus postage). Credit card order line 0871 220 3801.

**ERECTION PERFECTION** with you by noon tomorrow. 0701 071 8424 – www.viagib.com EUROMED

**SEXUAL PROBLEMS?** Because we can help, please go to www.4passions.com - and see our wide range of products

**PASSIVE THERAPY:** 40-something Oxbridge chap. Sympathetic ears trained over many years. London based. Total discretion guaranteed. Email: ears_engaged@yahoo.co.uk

# EYE GO OUT

**MARQUEES:** instant, sturdy, flexible, elegant. Year-round for parties and events. Martin 020 8731 9014

# EYE LIAISE

**HANDSOME CITY BANKER,** 43. Married, slim, 6ft., seeks younger, bored, slim and attractive, intelligent female (lawyer?), looking for a long-term, extra curricular romance, or simply occasional flirtatious lunches. Photo appreciated. Email: salmo3@compuserve.com

# EYE NEED

**FEMALE, 21-35.** Loving childless couple seek egg donor/sharer. Contact hospital for information. 0800 849 7036. Quote reference X0231218.

**EYE-RAQ.** Need help bringing nice desert republic into public eye. Barclays 20-62-53, 90438596

**YOUNG DOMINATRIX** wants funds for equipment and website. jennajcollins@hotmail.com

**TEMPTRESS** needs sexy shoes and a handbag to make her smile! Abbey 09-01-2639671636 sugarplum_goddess2002@yahoo.com

**INDEPENDENT WILDLIFE** film maker needs £40k for project to highlight the plight of 'Dancing' sloth bears. Many, many thanks! Lloyds TSB 30-93-92/02627363

**16-YEAR-OLD** ex army child needs £15k to finish education. Mum left home, Dad left services, working all hours to help pay bills. Please help. RBS. 16 11 14 account 10081713

**MANY YEARS M** E sufferer, private treatment available, no money, please help. BOS 01005889. Sort code 80-45-18

**NEED HELP URGENTLY.** Sick wife and two young children. Debts mounting. First Direct 40-47-73 145725103

**GENUINELY BROKE** undergraduate, father doesn't care. Help! HSBC 40-19-15 92589419

**CONNED** by cowboy landlords. Homeless. Moneyless. Lifeless. Donations please. Halifax 110728 00259121

**LIFE-CHANGING** operation please help B O S: 80-09-73 A/C 00447151

**25K NEEDED** from kind businessman for female entrepreneur's dream 20-27-48 80808180 every little helps talktosuave@hotmail.com

**REGINALD PERRIN MOMENT** redundant, wife, children mortgage, university fees, debts, aaagghh. Need help. A/N 21791427 S/C 40-45-11

**NASTY DIVORCE** has crippled my finances - need £20k. First Direct A/N 41606301 S/C 40-47-73

**MATURE STUDENT** seeks funds to finish last year of nursing degree. Abbey National x10735605mar

**PLEASE HELP.** Single mum needs help to move to bigger flat. Thank you. Lloyds 30-94-57 A/N 00970278

**STRAWBALE HOUSE** woman with MS fighting planning battle, mounting debts, donations appreciated 40-22-07 01143972

**FEMALE 50** and alone, in desperate financial situation. Unsympathetic landlord. Please help. Barclays 20-37-13, 90082171 or Box 71221

**I NEED £1500** to spend Christmas and life with my fiance. Barclays 20-62-53 A/N 90328987

**TRAPPED IN ABUSIVE** relationship, need £20,000 to secure release and finance business venture. Natwest 60-02-35 A/N 30569567

**I JOINED THE NAVY** by mistake, need 8K to escape. Please help. 20-51-01 A/N 90845531

**NEW PENSIONER** has now discovered that pension plans made years ago are virtually worthless. Deep gloom; any help gratefully appreciated. Thanks. Lloyds 77-10-23 A/C 13115060

**INVEST IN BRITISH TALENT!** Racing driver needs financial backing - www.aaronscott.co.uk - Barclays 60282324, 20-90-56

# EYE JOIN

**MASONIC DEBATING SOCIETY** wants ex/serving masons, people with anti/pro masonic views. Details 07956 465737. Email: mrdavidcwest@yahoo.co.uk

# EYE WORK

**PSYCHOTHERAPY STUDENT,** (35), doing part-time MA, with management background in music, design and architecture, needs liasing/coordinating role to dovetail with study. charismatic, versatile and forward-thinking. Call Adam 07796 088956

**GARDENER** and villa designer seeks new project in West Yorkshire. Box 70836


# PRIVATE EYE BINDERS

***Each binder holds 26 issues – a year's worth – and is attractively bound in dark blue with the PRIVATE EYE logo in white on the spine. The UK price is now £10 including postage, packing and VAT. For overseas orders please add 70p per binder.***

***WHY NOT PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW?***

***QUICK, NEAT AND EASY!***

**Send the completed order form below with your remittance to: Private Eye Binders, 6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN.**
**Telephone 020 7439 2427**
**Fax 020 7434 3505**

I enclose cheque for £ . . . . . No of binders. . . . . .

OR please charge MasterCard/Visa/Switch (Issue no_____)

Card number | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | (Switch only)

Card expires | | | |

Name . . . . . .

Address . . . . . .

. . . . . .

*Please print and use the postcode*

# EYE PROTECTION

**THE DEFENDER.** Freelance minder / independent security guard. Tel: 07986 808 990. (Message facility available.)

# EYE DRINK

**LOVE SINGLE MALT WHISKEY?** A mouth-watering range of malts dating from 1903. Call the award winning Royal Mile Whiskies on 0131 225 3383 or 020 7436 4763. Visit www.royalmilewhiskies.com for online delivery.

**BAD CHAMPAGNE?** For better and cheaper bubbles, Devigne Wines 01938 553478 www.devignewines.co.uk

**WWW.ITALIANWINESDIRECT.COM** - the site for discerning Italian wine and Grappa lovers! Visit browse and buy from a unique selection. You select - we deliver within 5 working days. www.italianwinesdirect.com Direct to your door!

# EYE WEAR

**BESPOKE SUITS AND SHIRTS** from the chaps at hurstandbanks.com (+44) 020 7582 0550

# EYE JOBS

**ENERGETIC MALE**, 41, University Lecturer, needs job in Edinburgh area, September 2004. Happy to diversify. Paul@par11.freeserve.co.uk 02920 489607

**WRITER/COMEDY ACTRESS** wanted to devise double act for Edinburgh 2004. apodaca@tiscali.co.uk

# EYE CONTACT

**ASIAN INTRODUCTIONS** Guaranteed. Suman Marriage Bureau – Established 1972. (ABIA). 0208 571 5145. www.suman-online.com

**NATURAL FRIENDS,** where relationships just click. Free brochure 0800 281 933 www.natural-friends.com

**MEET ORIENTAL** ladies in Britain for love, romance, etc. Tel 0161 9983 669 / 0788 163 0007 – e-mail tararainbow @yahoo.co.uk

**SPEED DATING** – the new way to meet other professionals. 20+ three minute face-to face dates in 1 night Telephone 08702 430 935 www.speeddater.co.uk

**EVERGREEN;** Alternative to Dating Agencies/clubs. 01992 632250. www.evergreenagency.co.uk

**REGULAR ADULT PARTIES** daytime & evenings, luxury Central London locations, couples & singles welcome, call Gordon 07971 298111 limelight_club@lycos.com

**THAI CONNECTION** – Thailand's oldest agency. Over 650 marriages. Videos, brochure: 01582 481725.

**HANDSOME, FIT,** intelligent, kind, considerate, witty and busy business executive seeks special relationship with nonsmoking woman with similar attributes who lives in London, Bucks or Berks. Natural elegance in public forays should seamlessly combine with desire to live out fantasies behind closed doors. If qualified and sincerely interested, please reply with photo to BramhamGardens@aol.com.

**LONESOME OXBRIDGE BLUES?** Why not meet somebody new at www.BluesMatch.com

**ATTRACTIVE?** Don't be alone. Call Attractive Partners on 08702 424212 – www.attractivepartners.co.uk

**MILLIONAIRE DATING AGENCY** requires female applicants to meet growing membership demand. Some brief details and recent photos to: P.O. Box 21425, Highgate, N6 6WP (ladies no fee)

**MEET THAT** someone special with Cloud Nine Connections. Free Membership. Tel: 01702 304 163 www.cloudnine-uk.co.uk

**DARK HAIRED TEMPTRESS**, 35, central London, seeks caring, generous, affluent gentleman for long-term mistress position. Reply Box 70698.

**MARRIED AND SUCCESSFUL** businessman, 53, athletic build, medium height, generous, handsome, seeks attractive lady 30 - 60 for liaisons. Photo please. Reply Box 70701.

**ROMEO DONKEY DAVE** (50) the sex stud stallion, desires an Ascot Lady Babe, to love rotten in the stable. Reply Box 70706.

**CONTACT MAG** for Adults: over 1,000 colour photos. Approval copy from Matchmaker (x.76), Chorley, PR7 4BS or 01257 483335 (24 hours)

**SENSUAL PROFESSIONAL MALE** (50s, attached) seeks imaginative, dainty female for light hearted liaisons and romantic interludes. London/South East. Box 70717.

**FACE2FACES** - Speed dating in Hertfordshire. For professionals by professionals. Register free now on www.face2faces.co.uk or tel: 0870 243 0738.

**TWO SEXY LADIES** (Caribbean & Finnish origin) seek two affluent, generous gentlemen who will wine and dine us and show us a good time. Email: privatelady@lycos.co.uk

**ATTACHED? SEEKING ROMANCE?** Call Davis at LOVEINGLINKS 08456 440 919. Info line 0906 550 1361 (call cost £1 a minute_ - www.lovinglinks.co.uk. Discreet dating at the speed of email.

**HANDSOME HAIRDRESSER** seeks strawberry blonde Welsh Angel (A), ideally sun-kissed by Spanish sun. Email: lucky_guy@hotmail.com

**RUSSIAN LADIES,** attractive and sincere, seek relationship/marriage. Meet many Russian ladies in Britain. Unlimited introductions. Excellent success rate. IFM 01708 478697 www.intromoscow.co.uk

**BLACK MALE PHYSICIAN**, 39, fit, slim, lovelessly attached, seeks fun girl, size 8-14 for discrete LT liaison. afrotarzan@aol.com

**ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT.** Powerful, beautiful retro domina requires worship. No sex. Apply to mistresstaro@hotmail.com

**CHAT ROOM.** 25p/min 100+ girls on line 24hrs. JCG tn219dz, 09062 765264

**LIVE 121,** Lets be WICKED Now! 0906 912 9922. Calls cost £1/min PO Box 121 TW8 0EW

**DATING LINE** 0906 752 6299* Live 1-2-1 Chat 0906 734 3206** Gay Chat 0906 952 6006* http://www.harmonypartners.co.uk PO Box 17 TN23 7YQ. Calls cost *75p/** £1/min from BT Landlines

# EYE SEEK

**HE ESCAPED** I was the sea

# EYE TECH

**DOMAIN NAMES** from £5.00 pa + VAT. Great friendly service. www.discountdomainsuk.com

PRIVATE EYE
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS
£2.50 PER WORD VAT inclusive £25.00 minimum charge
Colour £12.00 Box Number £12.00
Fax: 020 7379 7118 Email: private-eye@mcmslondon.co.uk
or call John Eaton on 020 7240 9129
PRIVATE EYE
McMillan-Scott, 10 Savoy Street, London WC2E 7HR

PRIVATE EYE
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS
£2.50 PER WORD VAT inclusive £25.00 minimum charge
Colour £12.00 Box Number £12.00
Fax: 020 7379 7118 Email: private-eye@mcmslondon.co.uk
or call John Eaton on 020 7240 9129
PRIVATE EYE
McMillan-Scott, 10 Savoy Street, London WC2E 7HR

Name.....

Address .....

Telephone number.....

*Post your advert with credit card details, cheque or postal order.*

Card number..... Valid from date.....

Expiry date ..... Issue number (Switch).....

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

# Morgan

## WAREHOUSE SURPLUS OUTLET

## www.morgancomputers.co.uk

## MAIL ORDER SALES LINE

## ☎ 0870 120 4960

MasterCard · BARCLAYCARD VISA · AMERICAN EXPRESS · SWITCH

**BUSINESS HOURS**
Monday-Friday 9.00am-6.30pm
Saturday 9.00am-5.00pm

**ALL STOCK BRAND NEW UNLESS STATED**

Subject to availability, prices subj to change. E&OE. Goods not supplied on a trial basis.

**CENTRAL LONDON**
64-72 New Oxford Street
London WC1A 1AX
Tel 020 7255 2115
Fax 020 7436 6266

**WEST LONDON**
Unit 26 Derby Road
Metropolitan Ctr UB6 8UJ
Tel 020 8575 0555
Fax 020 8575 7955

**BIRMINGHAM**
34 Edgbaston Centre, Hagley Road, Birmingham B16 8SH
Tel 0121 452 1141
Fax 0121 455 5555

**MANCHESTER**
Unit 11-12 Station Approach
Manchester M1 2GH
Tel 0161 237 1111
Fax 0161 237 3141

### VIDEOLOGIC DTS/5.1

**DIGITHEATRE PLATINUM**

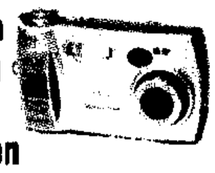
5 speaker system
220W RMS output
Built-in decoder
Ideal for DVDs

Excellent theatre style sound, 6 piece speaker system, ideal for DVD movies, built-in Dolby DTS, 5.1 & Prologic decoder, Coaxial & Toslink digital inputs. Brand new - 2 year warranty.

£169.99 EX | £199.74 Inc VAT

### KODAK DX-4900

**4 MEGAPIXEL DIGITAL**



High res camera
2x optical zoom
Macro mode
TFT colour screen

4 Megapixel CCD, 6x zoom (2x optical, 3x digital), optical viewfinder, TFT colour screen, built-in automatic flash, Retail boxed - Inc CFlash card & more. Easyshare Dock - £49.99 (£58.74)

£149.99 EX | £176.24 Inc VAT

### TOSHIBA SAT 2450-201

**AS NEW - FACTORY SEALED**

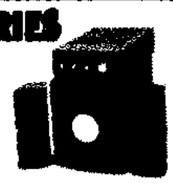
Pentium 4 2.4GHz
CD-RW/DVD drive
256MB SDRAM
30GB hard drive

With Intel Pentium 4 2.4GHz chip, 256MB SDRAM, 30GB drive, combo drive, 15" TFT screen, 32MB graphics, 56K modem/LAN, Windows XP Home. As new stock, Toshiba factory sealed.

£749.99 EX | £881.24 Inc VAT

### TEAC SPEAKER SETS

**POWERMAX SERIES**



High quality sound
Powerful outputs
Ideal for CDs/DVDs

PowerMax 500: Compact design, great for laptops, 22.5W RMS true output.

£29.99 EX | £35.24 Inc VAT

PowerMax 1000: Dolby Prologic I/II surround, 160W RMS total output.

£79.99 EX | £93.99 Inc VAT

### CANON 3-IN-1

**MULTIFUNCTION INKJET**

Colour printer
A4 scanner
Colour copier
USB interface

MPC-200, 2400 x 1200 dpi photo printing, 600 x 1200 dpi flatbed colour scanner, A4 colour copying, MicroFine Droplet Technology for better quality printing. As new refurb - 1 year wty.

£99.99 EX | £117.49 Inc VAT

### FUJI FINEPIX A204

**COMPACT DIGITAL CAMERA**

2 Megapixel CCD
3x optical zoom
Built-in flash
Sliding lens cover

2.0 Megapixel CCD - 1600 x 1200 dpi images, powerful 3x optical zoom lens, multiple shooting modes, 1.5" TFT screen, movie clip capture facility. As new Fuji factory refurb, 1 year wty.

£109.99 EX | £129.24 Inc VAT

### DIGITAL VOICE

**OLYMPUS NOTECORDERS**

**VN-90** 8MB RAM, records up to 90 min, alarm function **£12.99** (£15.26)

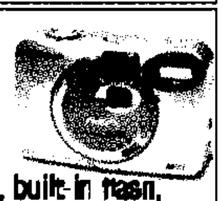
**VN-1800** 16MB RAM, records up to 180 min of voice ..... **£19.99** (£23.49)

**DW-90** 8MB RAM, USB interface to link to your PC ..... **£29.99** (£35.24)

All unit are as new Olympus factory refurb stock, include batteries & 1 year Olympus warranty.

### FUJI DIGITAL CAMERAS

**FINEPIX A101**



1.3 Megapixel
Video clip mode

1280 x 960 dpi res, built-in flash, macro mode & video capture facility. Grade A Fuji refurb - 1 year warranty.

£59.99 EX | £70.49 Inc VAT

**A201:** 2 Megapixel, 1600 x 1200 dpi. As new Fuji factory refurb - 1 year wty.

£69.99 EX | £82.24 Inc VAT

### SUB £350 NOTEBOOK

**HP OMNIBOOK 500**

600MHz chip
128MB SDRAM
Ultra-slim design
CD docking station

Intel Pentium III 600MHz processor, 10GB hard drive, 128MB SDRAM, CD/floppy/Modem/LAN on docking station, 12.1" TFT screen. HP factory refurb stock with MS Windows 2000.

£349.99 EX | £411.24 Inc VAT

### HOME CINEMA KIT

**VIDEOLOGIC SPEAKER SET**

Ideal for DVDs
Remote controlled
6 speaker set
60W output

Videologic Digitheatre 6 piece surround sound kit, Dolby 6.1 compatible, large subwoofer unit & 5 stereo speakers, integrated 6 channel amplifier, true 60W RMS output. Boxed as new stock

£79.99 EX | £93.99 Inc VAT

### COMPLETE PIII PC

**WITH 14" CRT MONITOR**

Intel PIII 700MHz
128MB SDRAM
15GB hard drive
MS Windows 95

Gateway small form factor PC with Intel Pentium III 700MHz processor, 56K modem & 10/100 LAN interface. Supplied with brand new keyboard mouse & monitor, refurb base unit.

£179.99 EX | £211.49 Inc VAT

### SATELLITE PRO 6100

**AS NEW - FACTORY SEALED**

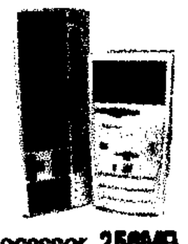
Pentium 4 1.6GHz
DVD-ROM drive
256MB DDR RAM
20GB hard drive

With Intel Pentium 4 1.6GHz chip, 256MB DDR, 20GB HD, 8x DVD-ROM, 14.1" TFT screen, 16MB graphics, 56K modem/LAN, MS Win XP Pro/2K. As new stock, Toshiba factory sealed.

£549.99 EX | £646.24 Inc VAT

### COMPAQ S3150

**AS NEW STOCK**



AMD 1.8GHz chip
CD-RW & DVD
40GB hard drive
256MB DDR RAM

AMD Athlon 2200+ processor, 256MB DDR RAM, 40GB drive, 40x 12x 40x CD-RW, 16x DVD-ROM, Intel graphics, firewire port, 56K modem, Windows XP Home & Works. 1 year warranty.

£369.99 EX | £434.74 Inc VAT

### NIKON COOLPIX 2000

**2 MEGAPIXEL SPECIAL**

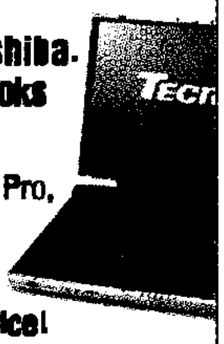
1600 x 1200 dpi
Optical zoom
TFT screen
5 scene modes

Compact 2.0 megapixel camera, 3x optical zoom lens, multiple shooting modes, optical viewfinder, TFT colour screen, movie clip capture facility. Grade A refurb stock - 1 year warranty.

£99.99 EX | £117.49 Inc VAT

### TOSHIBA NOTEBOOKS

**AS NEW - FACTORY SEALED**



Direct from Toshiba.
As new notebooks

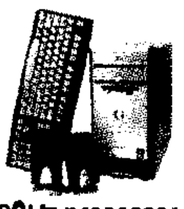
Models include:
Satellite, Satellite Pro, Tecra & Portege

Huge savings off normal list price!

Please call for models/prices

### EMACHINES T2042

**WITH FREE 14" MONITOR**



Celeron 2.0GHz
DVD & CD-RW
40GB hard drive
128MB DDR RAM

With Intel Celeron 2.0GHz processor, 16x DVD-ROM & 40x 12x 40x CD-RW drives, 56K/LAN ports, Proview 14" CRT, Win XP Home. Imported stock, US keyboard layout, boxed as new.

£329.99 EX | £387.74 Inc VAT

### FUJI FINEPIX 601

**6 MEGAPIXEL SUPER CCD**

Compact design
3x optical zoom
Macro mode
Inc USB cradle

6 Megapixel Super CCD - 3.3 million pixels eff, powerful 3x optical zoom lens, multiple shooting modes, 2" TFT screen, inc charging/download cradle. As new Fuji factory refurb, 1 year wty.

£219.99 EX | £258.49 Inc VAT

### TOSHIBA SAT 1130-Z25

**AS NEW - FACTORY SEALED**

Intel Celeron 2GHz
CD-RW/DVD drive
256MB DDR RAM
30GB hard drive

With Mobile Intel Celeron 2.0GHz chip, 256MB DDR RAM, 30GB drive, combo drive, 15" TFT screen, 64MB graphics, 56K modem/LAN, Windows XP Home. As new stock, Toshiba factory sealed.

£599.99 EX | £704.99 Inc VAT

### CANON SCANNERS

**GRADE A CANON REFURBS**

USB Connection
Full 1 year RTB warranty

CanoScan 670U: 600 x 1200 dpi res, 42 Bit colour, flatbed design, z-lid.

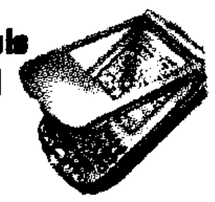
£29.99 EX | £35.24 Inc VAT

CanoScan 1240U: 2400 x 1200 dpi, 42 Bit colour, flatbed design, z-lid.

£39.99 EX | £46.99 Inc VAT

### HANDSPRING TREO 270

**COLOUR PALMTOP/PHONE**



GSM compatible
Palm powered
Full featured
16MB RAM

Handspring Treo - combined mobile phone & Palm powered organiser, dual band GSM, 100 hours stand-by, full featured organiser with QWERTY keyboard. Retail boxed - SIM free.

£169.99 EX | £199.74 Inc VAT

### CHIPY SIM READER

**PHONEBOOK BACKUP**

Security device
Compact design

Backup/manage your SIM memory, accepts most SIM cards, serial port i'face, inc data management software.

£16.99 EX | £19.96 Inc VAT

**Chipy USB:** Same functions as above but with faster USB connection to PC.

£22.99 EX | £27.01 Inc VAT

### CANON S200 INKJET

**OFFICIAL CANON REFURB**

As new condition
2880 x 720 dpi
Laser-like text
USB interface

High resolution colour inkjet printer, 2880 x 720 dpi printing, max 5 pages per min output, excellent text quality, 50 sheet paper hopper, ink low/out detection. Inc 1 year Canon warranty.

£29.99 EX | £35.24 Inc VAT

### PORTABLE MP3'S

**COMPACT MP3 PLAYER**

Pen drive facility
USB interface
Inc headphones

128MB Version: doubles as a storage device, powered via 1 x AAA battery.

£49.99 EX | £58.74 Inc VAT

256MB Version: Stores up to 4 MP3 albums, powered via LI-ion battery.

£79.99 EX | £93.99 Inc VAT

### MORGAN GIANT ILLUSTRATED PRICELIST

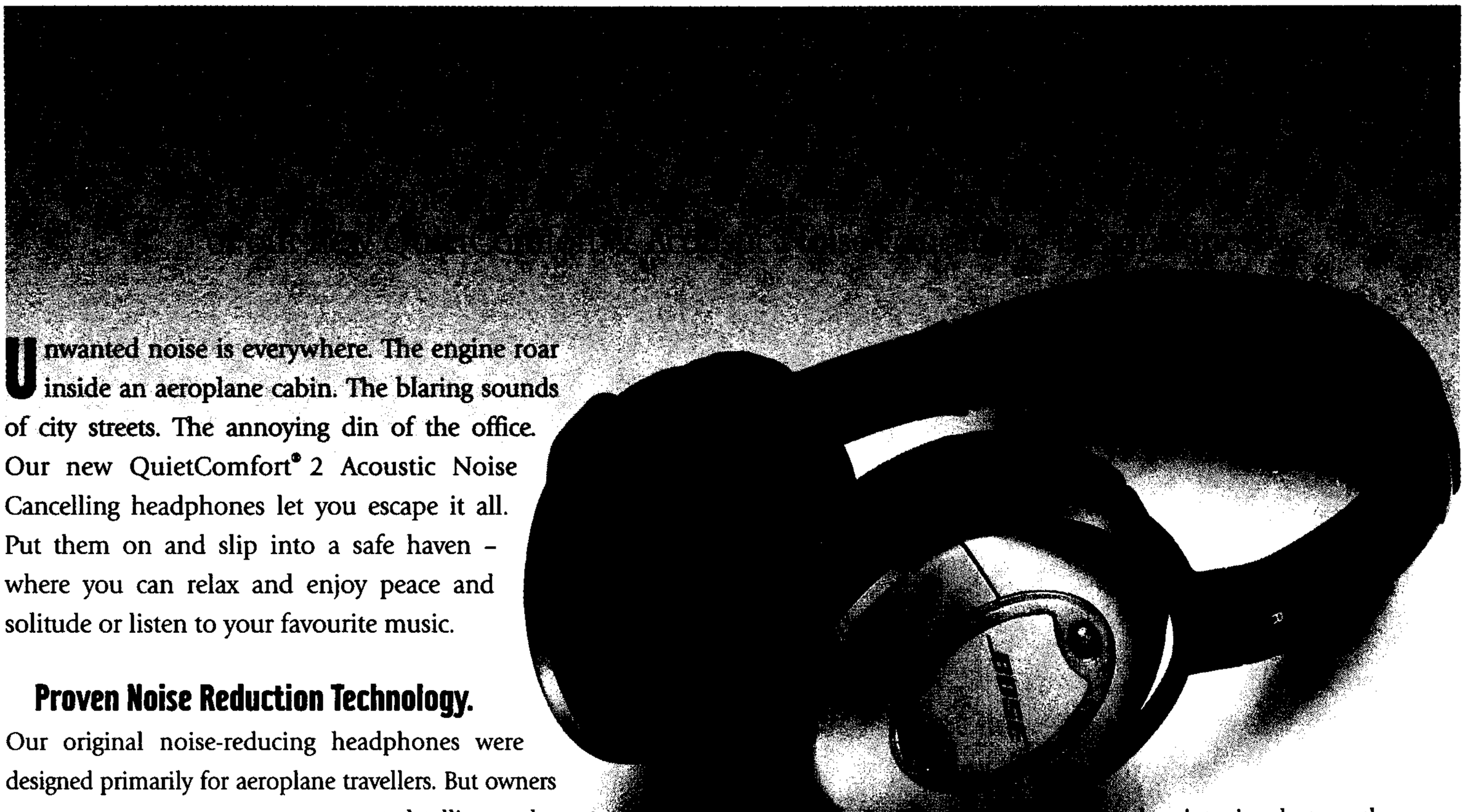
***DON'T MISS OUT!***

***THE MORGAN FLYER FREE EVERY MONTH***

Giant illustrated monthly price list packed full of all the latest surplus, end of line and closeout computer hardware and software deals.

**CALL 0870 120 4960**

**FAX 0121 456 5564**



Unwanted noise is everywhere. The engine roar inside an aeroplane cabin. The blaring sounds of city streets. The annoying din of the office. Our new QuietComfort® 2 Acoustic Noise Cancelling headphones let you escape it all. Put them on and slip into a safe haven – where you can relax and enjoy peace and solitude or listen to your favourite music.

## Proven Noise Reduction Technology.

Our original noise-reducing headphones were designed primarily for aeroplane travellers. But owners soon started telling us how mu[illegible] enjoyed them in other noisy [illegible]. So we designed our new QuietComfort® 2 headphones around the same US patented technology to electronically identify and dramatically reduce noise, while faithfully preserving the film, movie dialogue or silence you want.

The *Philadelphia Daily News* says that "Even in the noisiest environment, wearing these phones creates a calming, quiet zone for easy listening or just snoozing."

## Our Best Sound Ever.

New QuietComfort® 2 headphones deliver the best audio performance we have ever developed for headphones. Highs are impressively crisp and clean. Lows are deep and enveloping. Vocals are reproduced with lifelike authenticity. When audio critic Wayne Thompson heard our new QuietComfort® 2 headphones, he reported, "Bose engineers have made major improvements." Whether you are looking for noise reduction or high-performance headphones for music, we think you'll agree – QuietComfort® 2 headphones simply make your music sound better.

## Enhanced Comfort And Portability.

Respected columnist Rich Warren says "The QuietComfort® 2 lives up to its name, enveloping you in blissful sound in the utmost comfort. It's easy to forget they're on your head." To enjoy peace [illegible]d quiet, simply turn them on. [illegible] add Bose-quality sound, attach the [illegible]nect them to a home stereo, laptop computer, portable CD/MP3 player or in-flight audio system. When you're done, our new fold-flat design allows you to quickly tuck your headphones away in a bag or briefcase, so you can take them almost anywhere.

## Experience Them For Yourself.

We don't expect you to take our word for how dramatically our new headphones reduce noise, how clean and full they sound or how comfortably they fit. So we invite you to try them for 30 days, satisfaction guaranteed. If you can live without them, return them for a full refund. It's that simple. Be sure to ask about our **10-month payment plan** with no interest charges from Bose.* QuietComfort® 2 headphones – the new standard from Bose, one of the most respected names in sound.

ORDER BY 30 DEC. 2003 TO RECEIVE FREE DELIVERY.

# CALL 08000 85 85 72

**Quoting Reference 8893**

For information on all our products: **www.bose.co.uk/8893**

(Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss) _____

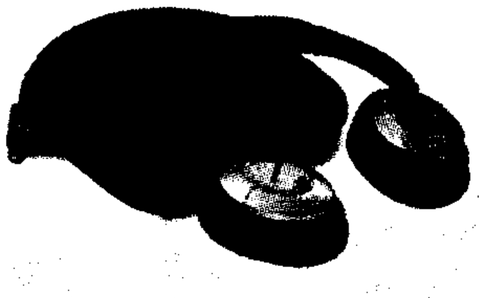
Address _____

Postcode _____

Day Tel _____ Evening Tel _____

Return coupon to: Bose Ltd., Freepost EX 151, Exeter, EX1 1ZY. No stamp necessary. 8893

If you do not wish to receive mailings from carefully selected companies, please advise us.



BOSE®
Better sound through research®

*Instalment payment plan available on credit/debit cards only and subject to status. Your credit/debit card will be charged each month, with 0% finance charge from Bose. In the event of a late payment, credit/debit card company interest charges may apply. Instalment payment plan and free delivery offers not to be combined with any other offer or applied to previous purchases. Free P&P applies to UK deliveries only. Price and payment plan subject to change without notice. Delivery subject to product availability. ©2003 Bose Corporation.. All rights reserved. Quotes reprinted with permission from: Jonathan Takiff, *Philadelphia Daily News*, 29/5/03; Rich Warren, *News-Gazette*, 19/5/03; Wayne Thompson, Portland *Oregonian*, 18/04/03.

9 770032 888105 44>